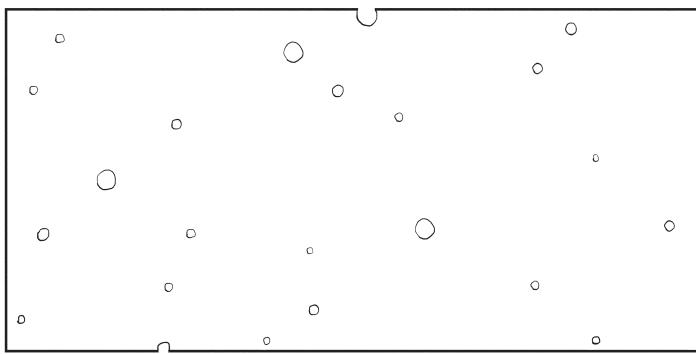


A SIGN OF AFFECTION



suu Morishita

*I WONDER...
IF YOU CAN FALL IN LOVE
AS SILENTLY AS THIS SNOW IS FALLING.*



*FALLING OUT OF A CLOUDY SKY,
CHANGING THE COLOR OF THE WORLD BELOW.*





Sign.1
YUKI'S SNOWY WORLD



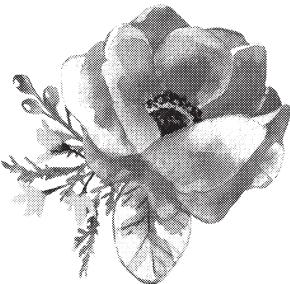
Hello, and nice to meet you.
This is volume 1 of *A Sign of Affection*.
In Japan, it's running in
Kodansha's *Dessert* magazine.
The publisher has changed, and the
story itself has faced all sorts of
obstacles, but I'm still working hard
to create a shojo manga that
seamlessly incorporates
sign language.
Thank you for your support!

suu Morishita

A SIGN of AFFECTION

1

suu Morishita



~~~ **CONTENTS** ~~~

Sign.1

YUKI'S SNOWY WORLD

1

— ♦ —

Sign.2

TOWARD AFFECTION

59

— ♦ —

Sign.3

CAN'T SEE

101

— ♦ —

Sign.4

MORE

138

— ♦ —

Extras

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

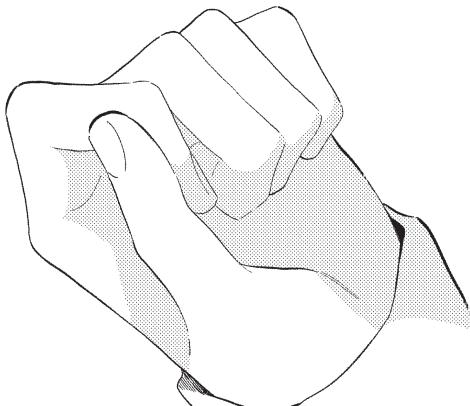
174

TRANSLATION NOTES

180



THIS IS MY
WORLD.



THE NEXT
STOP IS...
HASHIMOTO. >

まもなく、
Hachimoto de su
橋本です

ほ^カ
BEAM

ほ^カ
BEAM

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I GOT
SUCH A CUTE
DRESS ON
SALE! ♡

CUTE
THINGS.

LIKE.



CLICK
ほ^カ

SOCIAL
MEDIA.

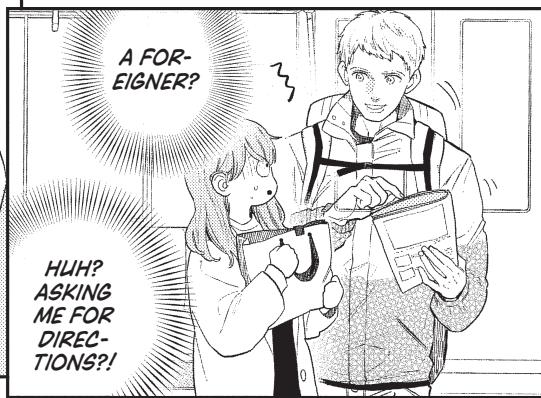
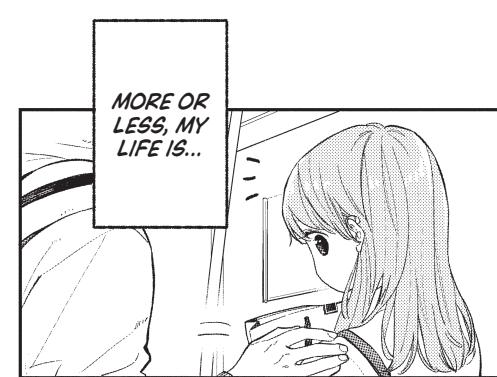


FRIENDS.

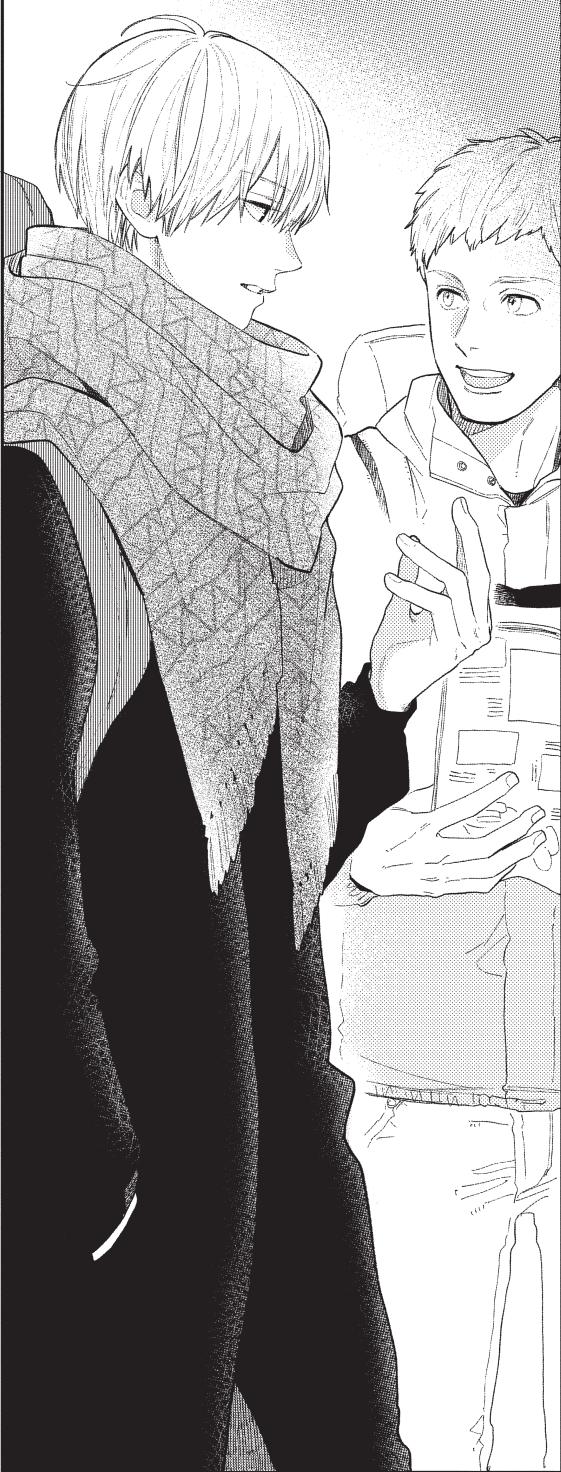
COL-
LEGE.

OH.

RIN-
CHAN
POSTED TO
INSTA-
GRAM.

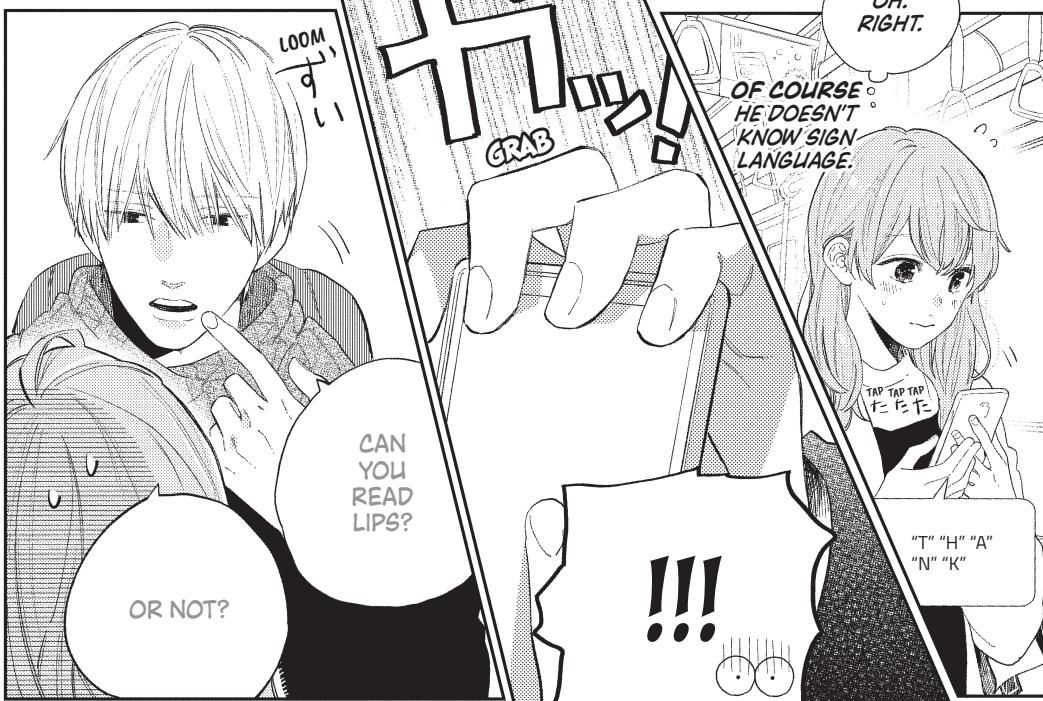




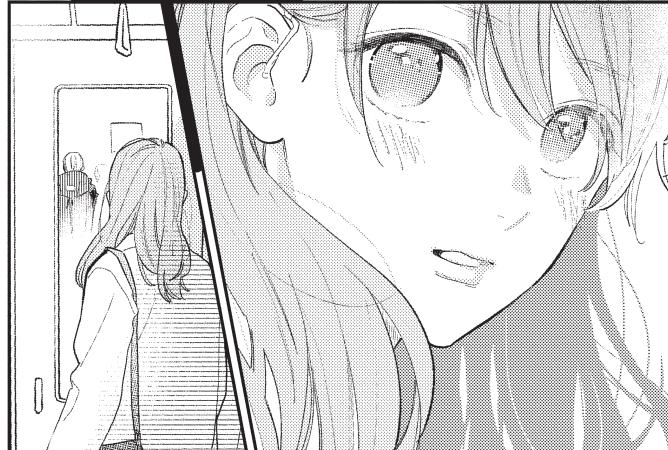














... "SEE
YOU
AROUND."

...WHEN
HE
SAID...

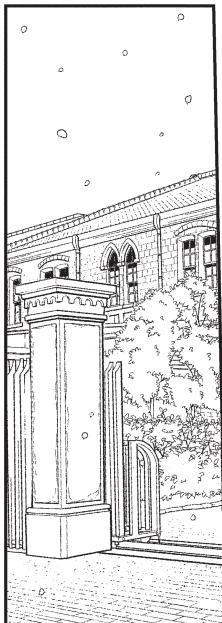
AND
HE DIDN'T
HESITATE
AT ALL...

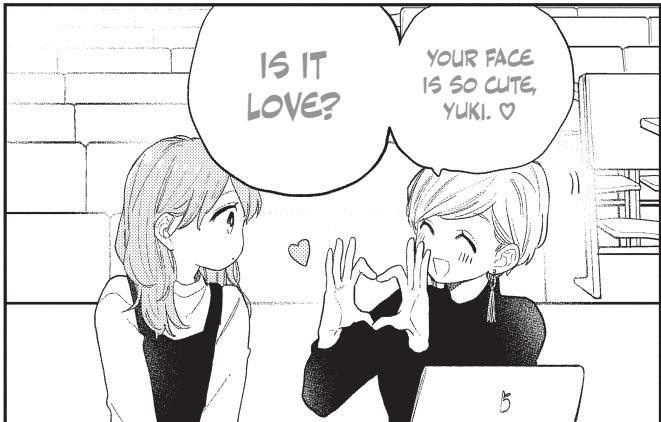
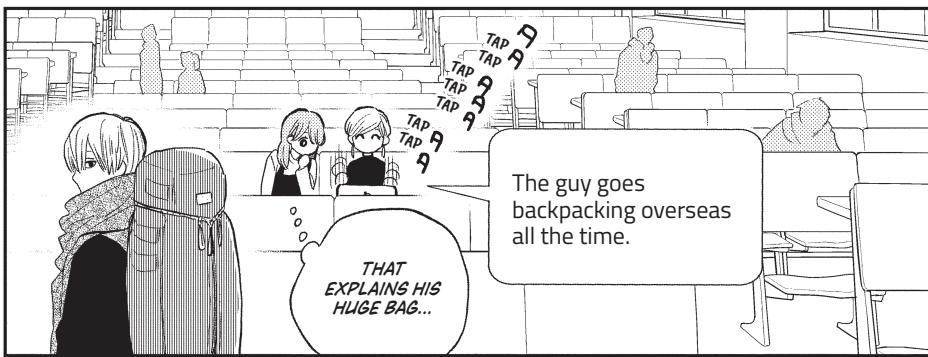
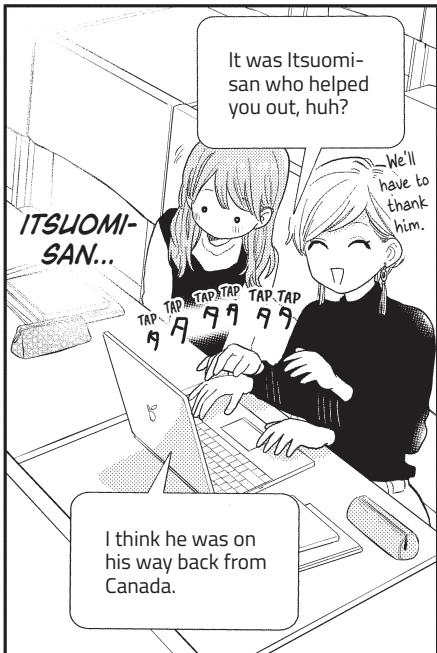
THIS IS MY
WORLD...

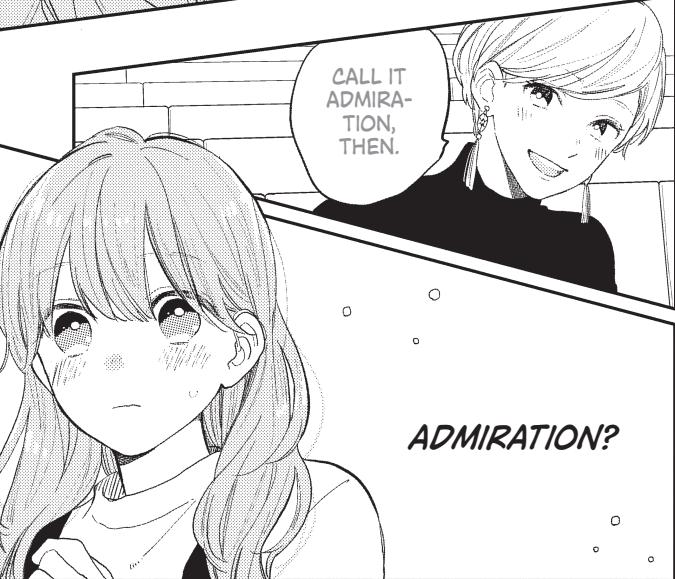
...IT'S
BEEN A
PLACE
WITHOUT
THE
SOUNDS
OTHER
PEOPLE
TAKE FOR
GRANTED.

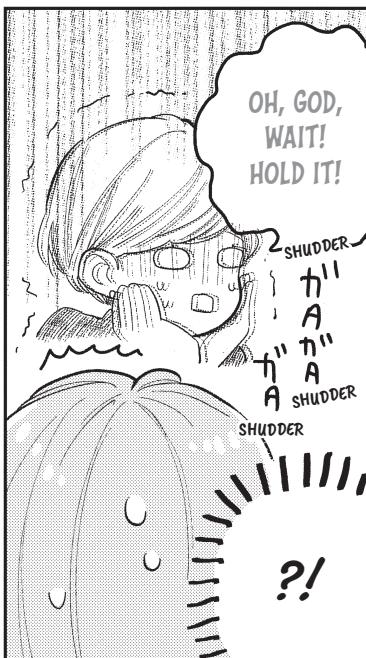
EVER
SINCE
I WAS
BORN...

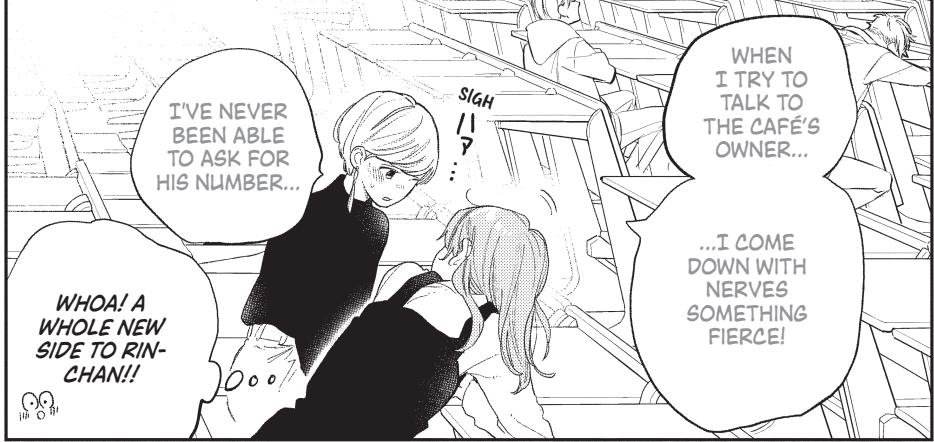
OUR
FIRST TIME
MEETING,
AND HE
SPOKE
RIGHT
TO ME.

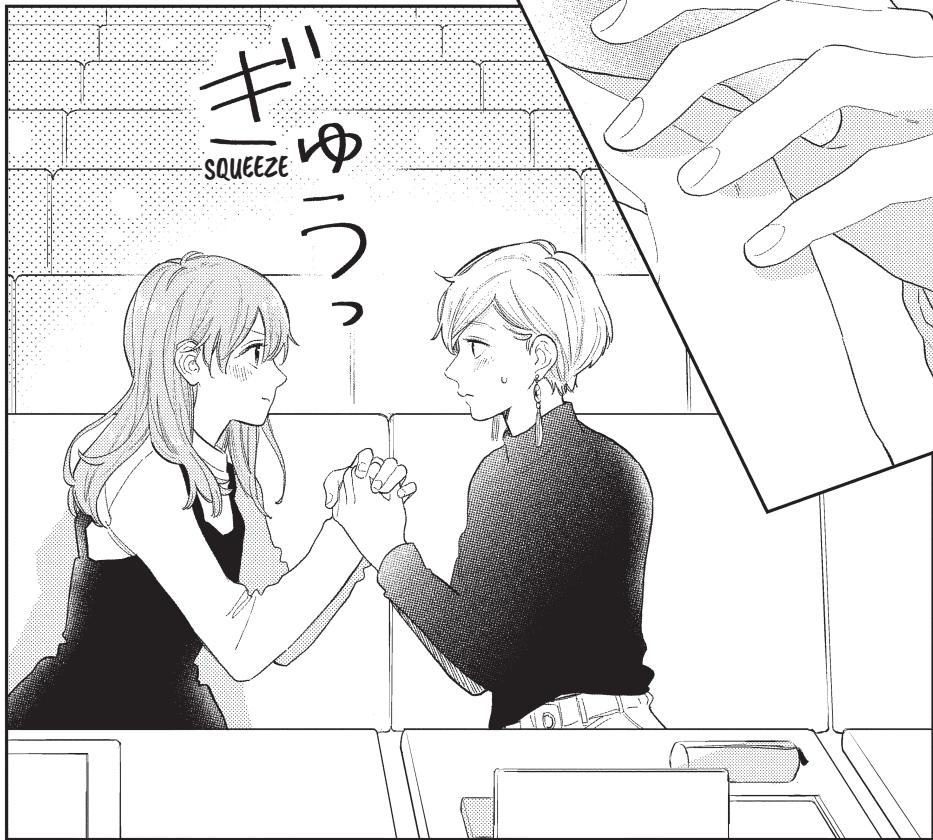


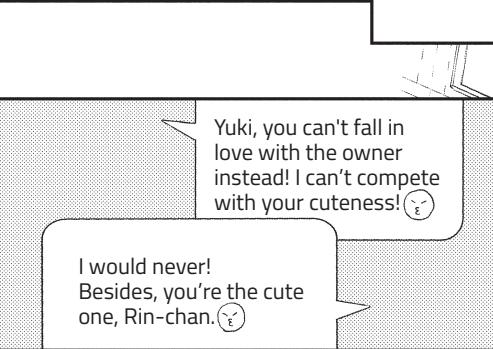
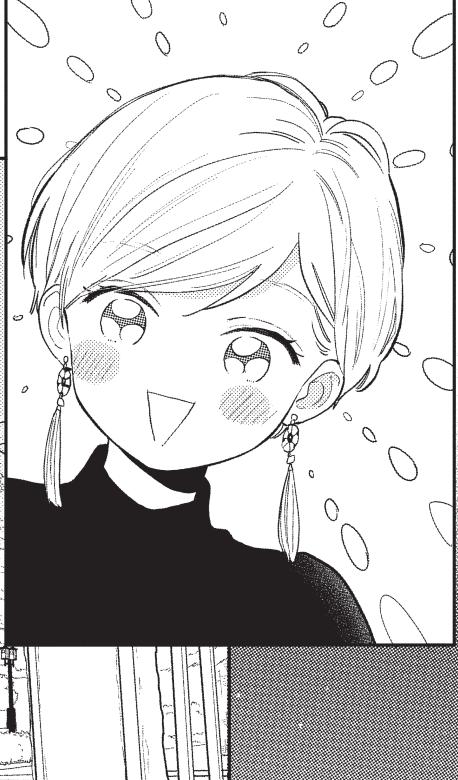
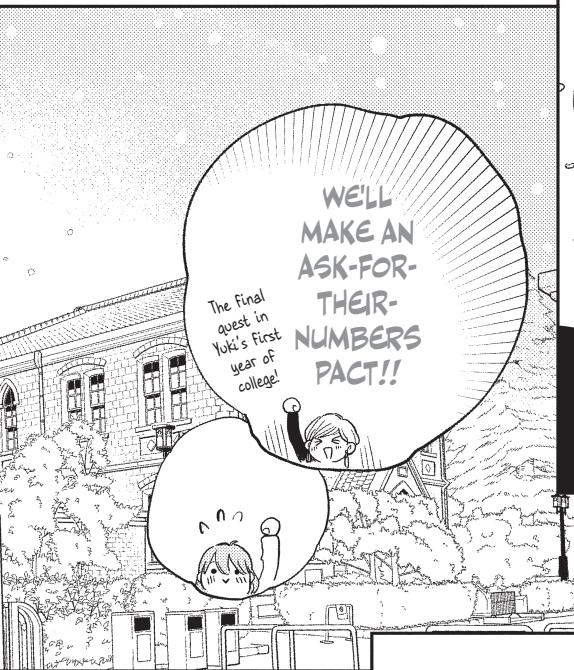








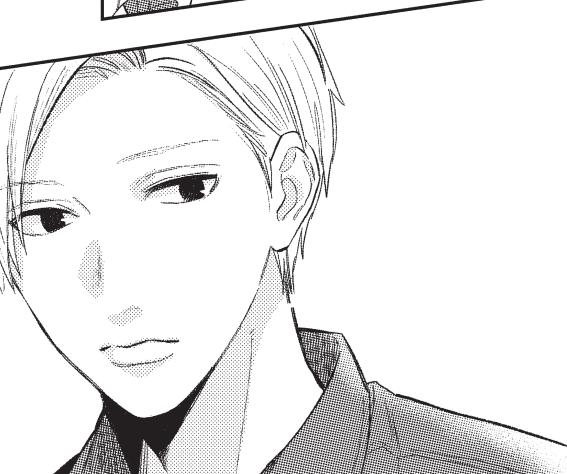






HIS VIBE
HERE IS
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT.







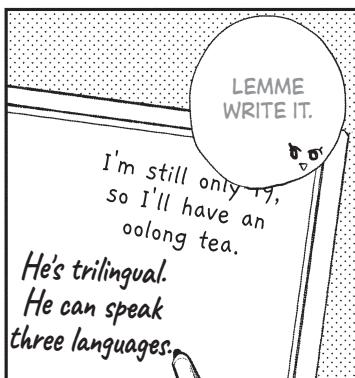
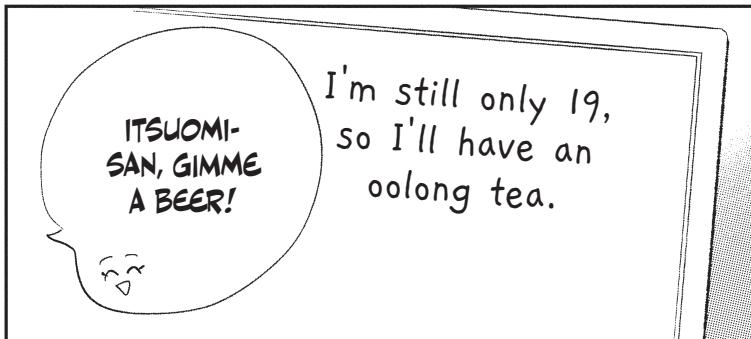
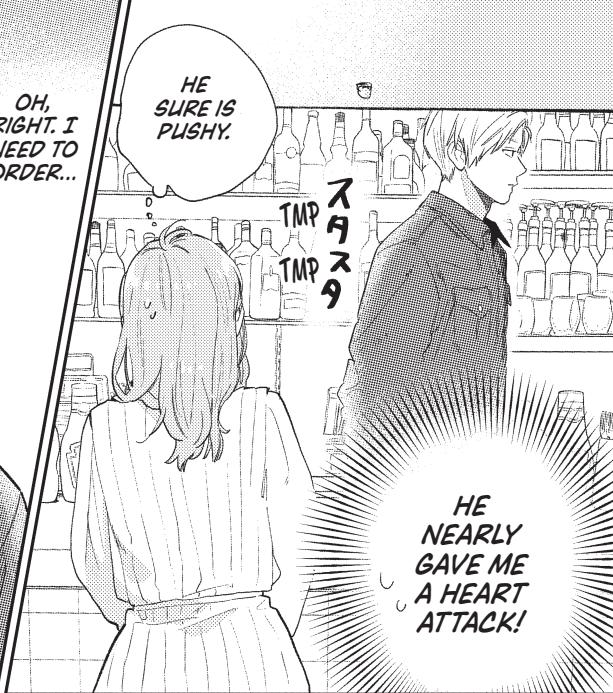


CAN I GET
YOU...

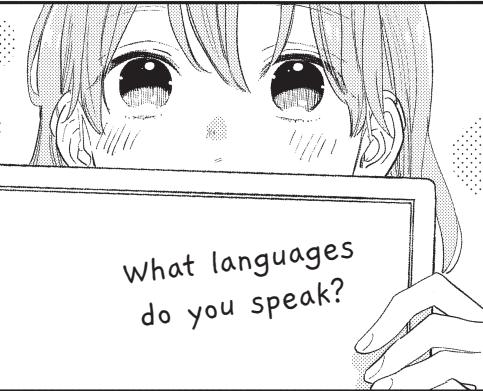
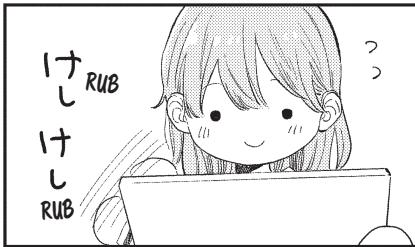
...A DRINK?

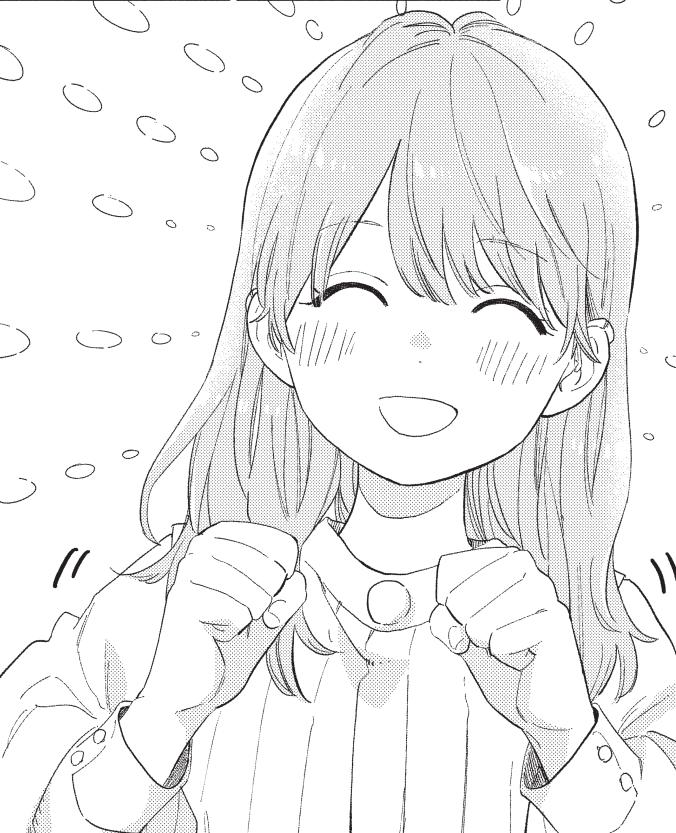
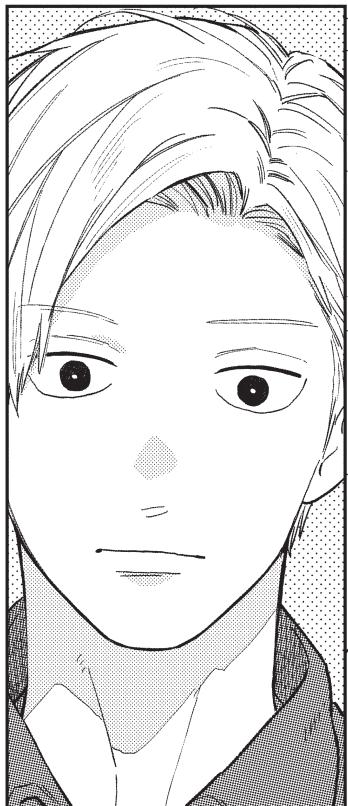
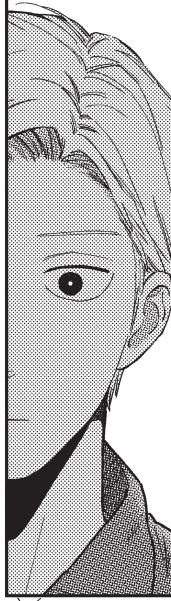
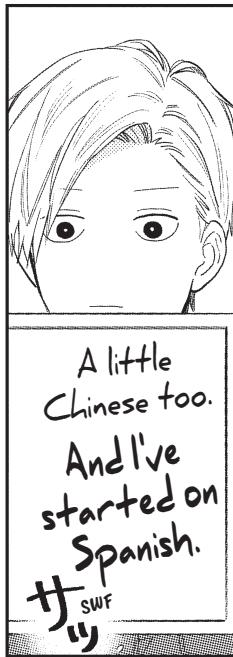


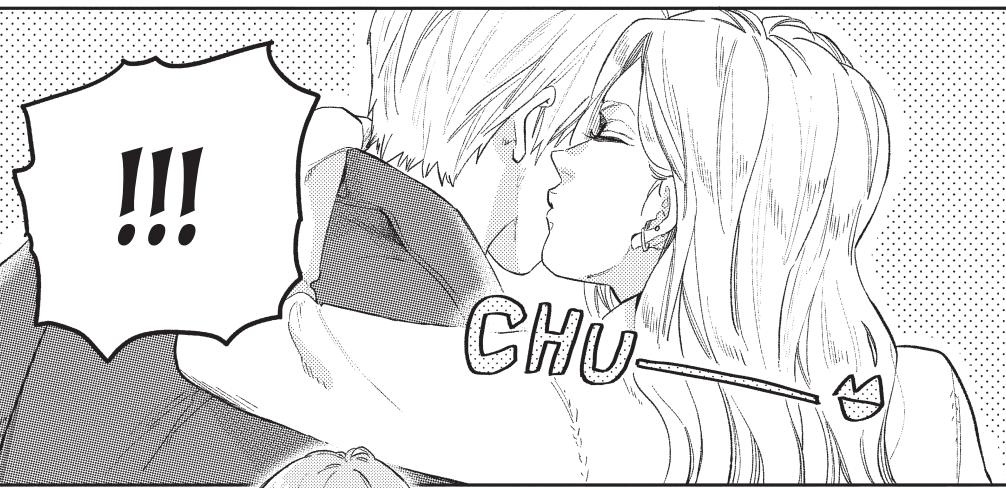
OR
NOT?

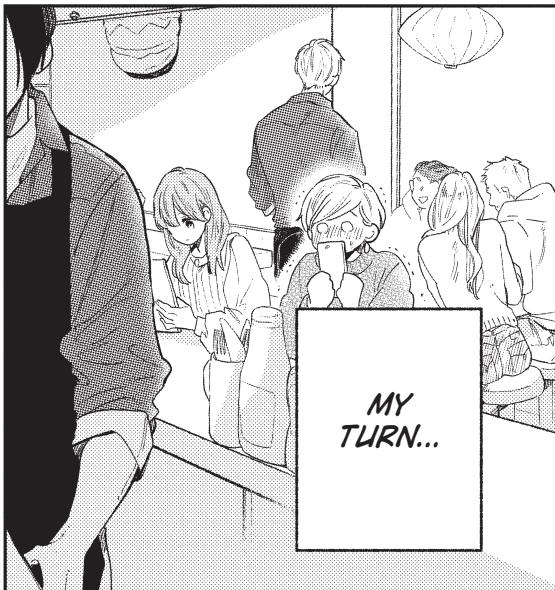


IT'S MORE LIKE HE'S PUSHY...IN A GOOD WAY?

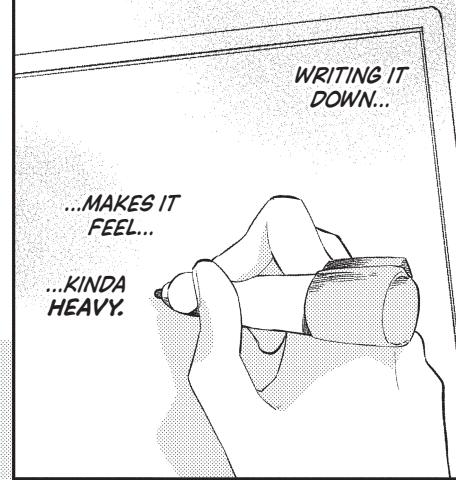






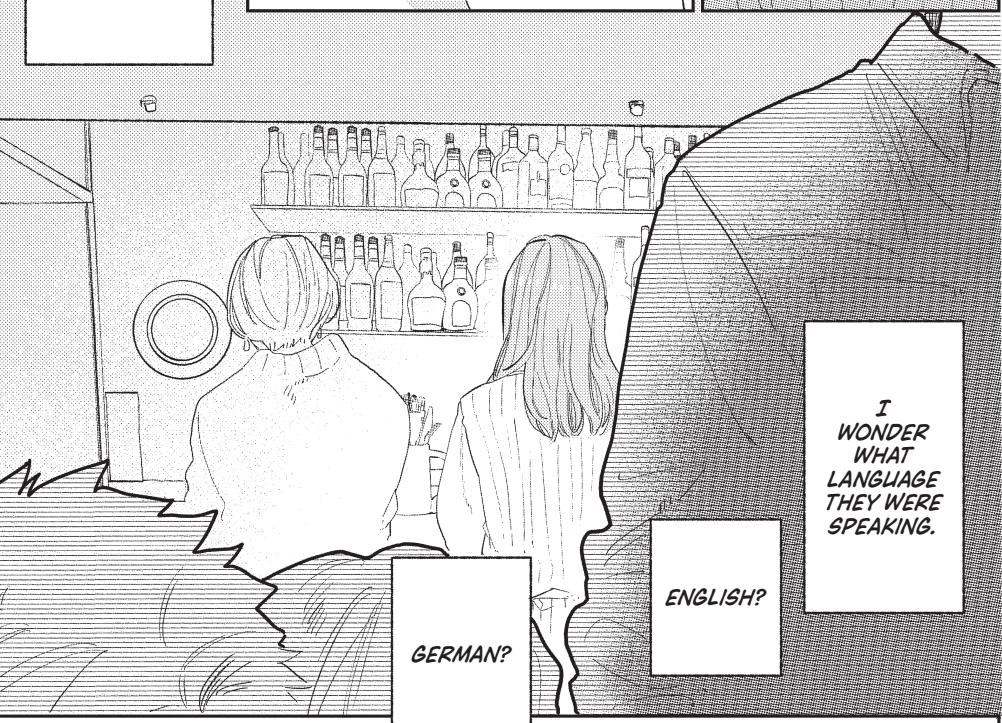


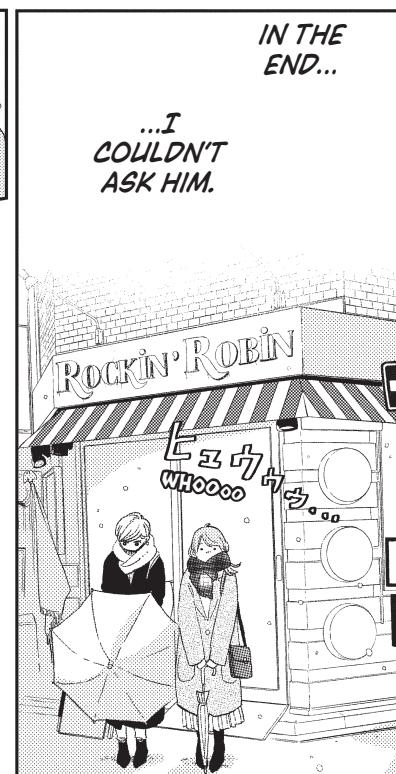
THOSE
PEOPLE
BEHIND
US...

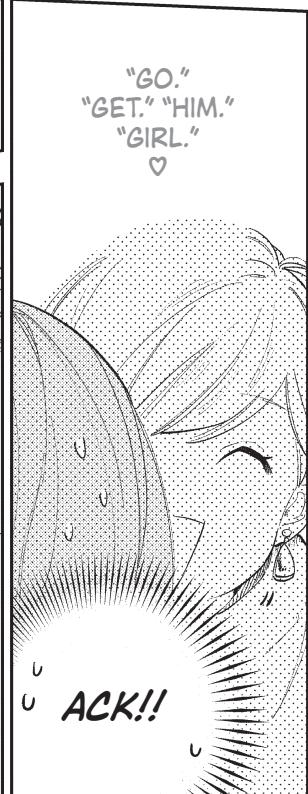


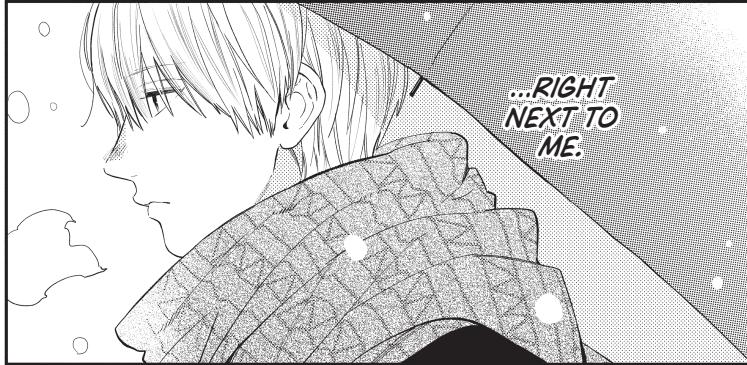
I WONDER
HOW RIN-
CHAN ASKED
FOR IT.

JAPANESE?

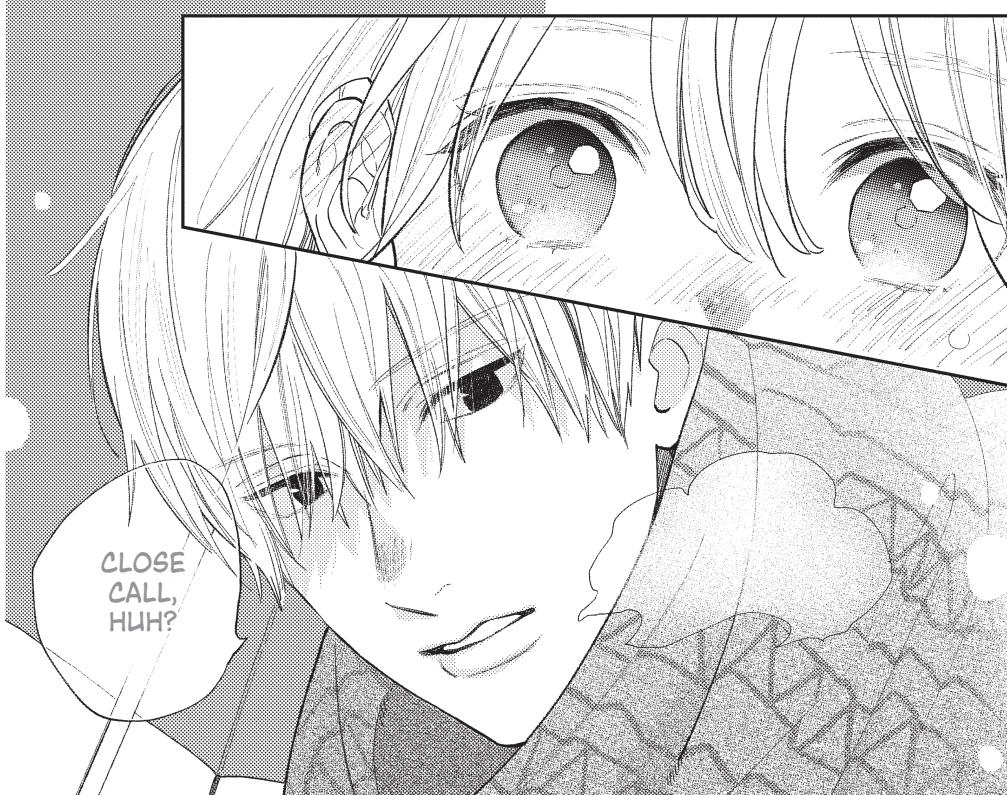
















...IN HIS
OWN BIG
HAND.

JUST
GRABBED
IT...

HE
TOOK MY
HAND...
...LIKE IT'S
NOTHING.

...BUT
NOW...

...MY FINGERS
WERE GOING
NUMB...

BETWEEN
THE
SNOW...

...AND
WIND
CHILL...

...THEY
FEEL...

...HOT.



IT
TINGLES.



...BUT
I DON'T
WANT HIM
TO LET GO.



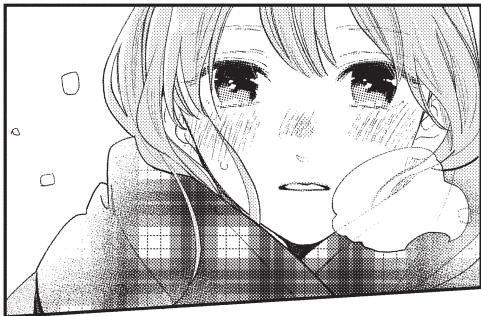
...ON
OUR
ARMS.

SNOW IS
STARTING
TO BUILD
UP...

AH.

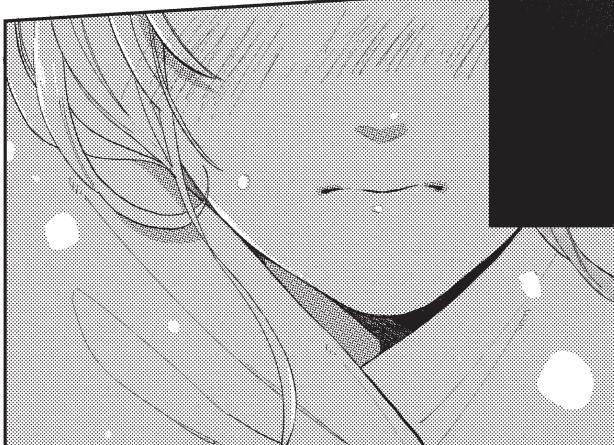


I WISH MY
THOUGHTS...



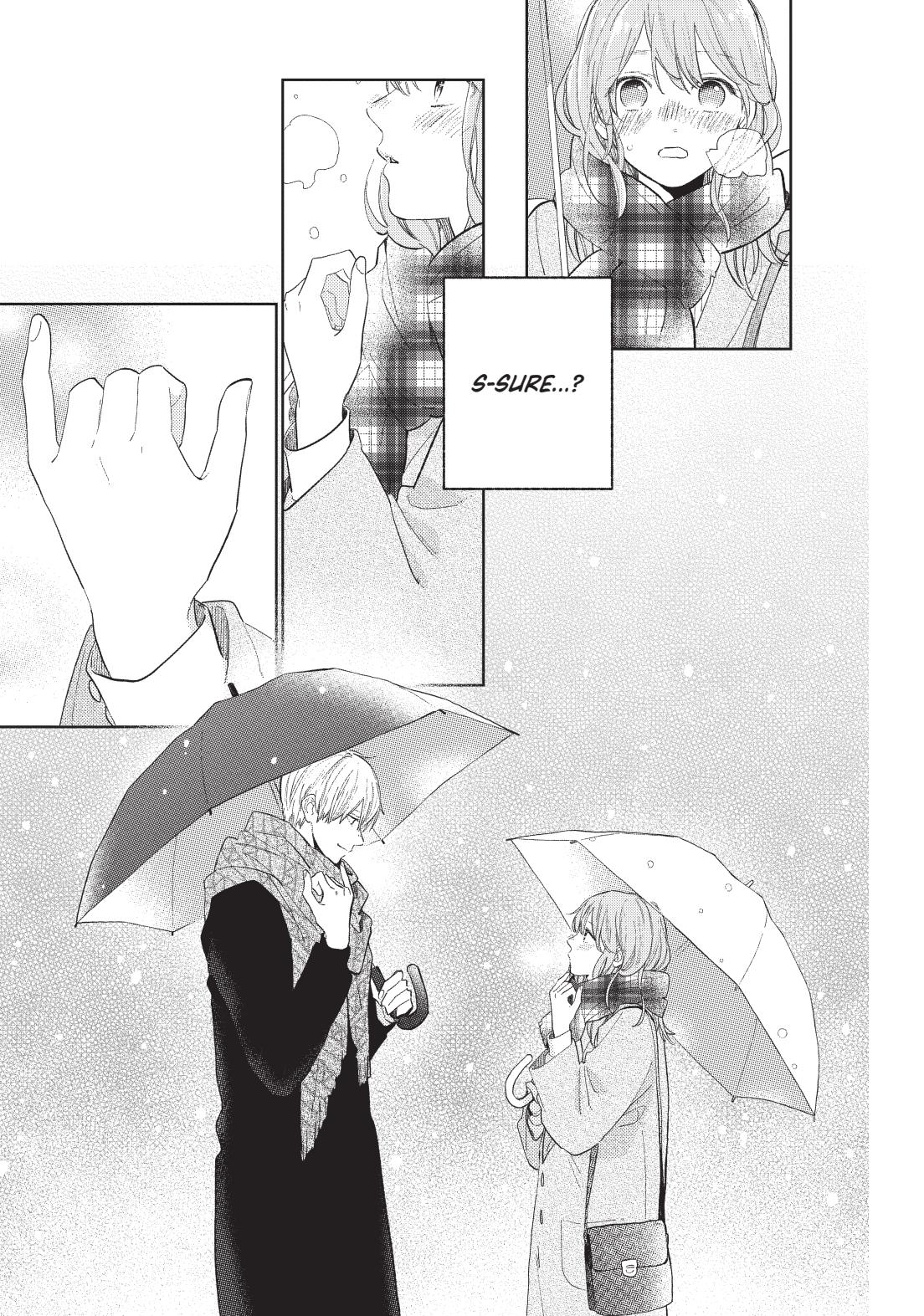
...COULD
DRIFT OVER
TO HIM...

...AND MELT
STRAIGHT
THROUGH,
LIKE SNOW.









S-SURE...?

New Contact



Itsuomi



My station is right
over there, so I'll
be fine here.

Thank you very much.

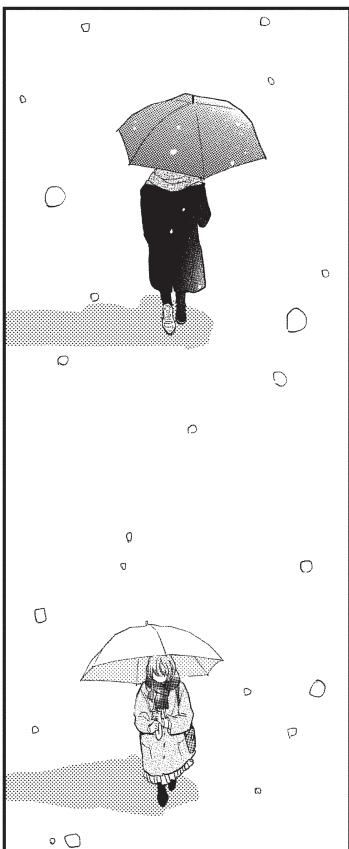
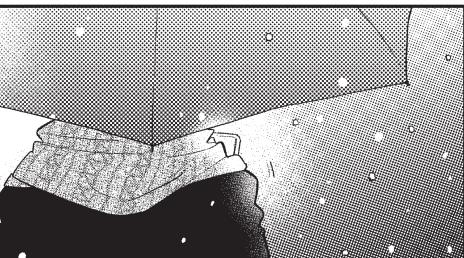
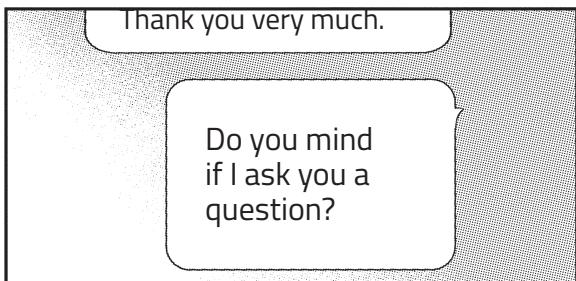
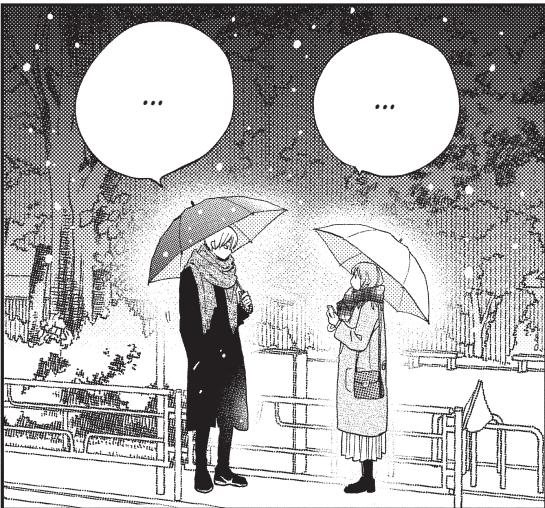
SHIMP



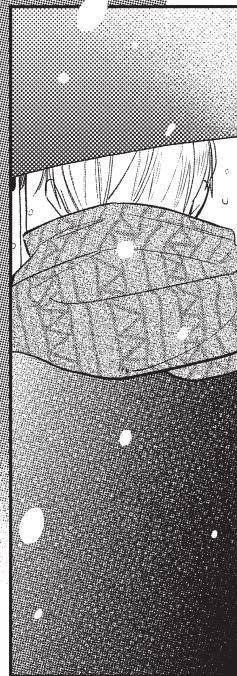
PING

Itsuomi
Where's your
place?

!



What's the rest
of the world like?
Is it...big?

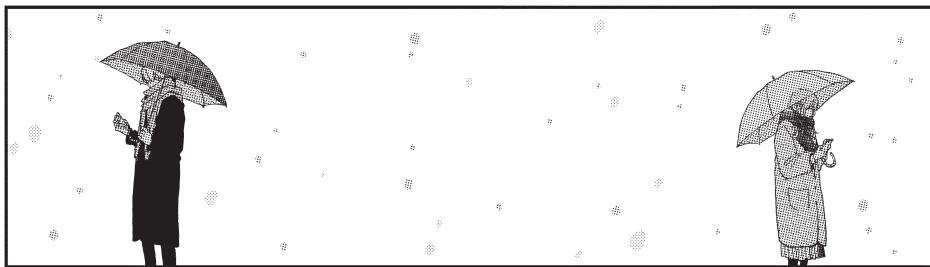


Thank you very

Do you mind
if I ask you
a question?

What?

丁酉
PING



I WONDER...

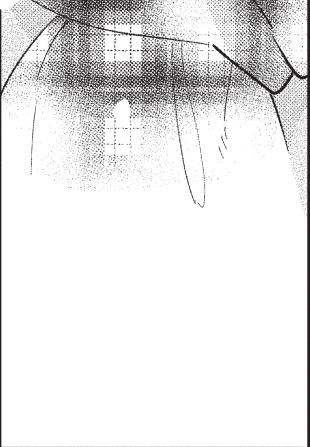
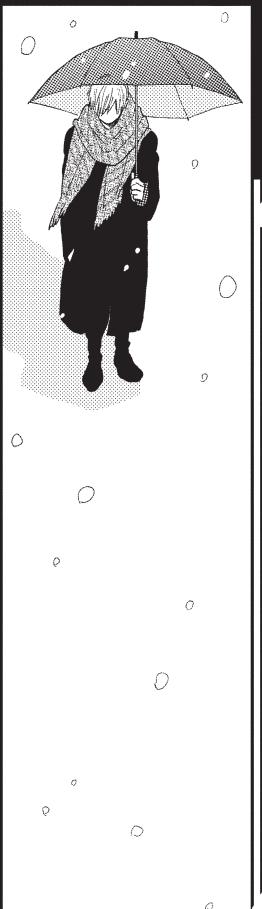
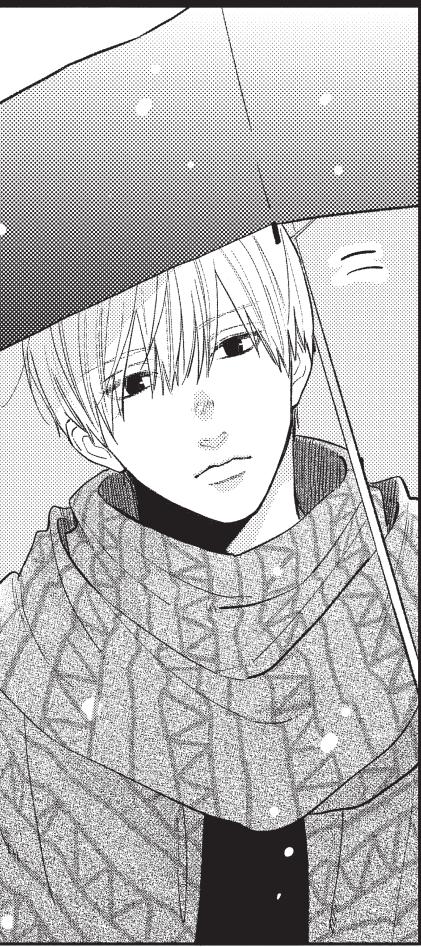


It's gigantic.



Let me into Yuki's world?

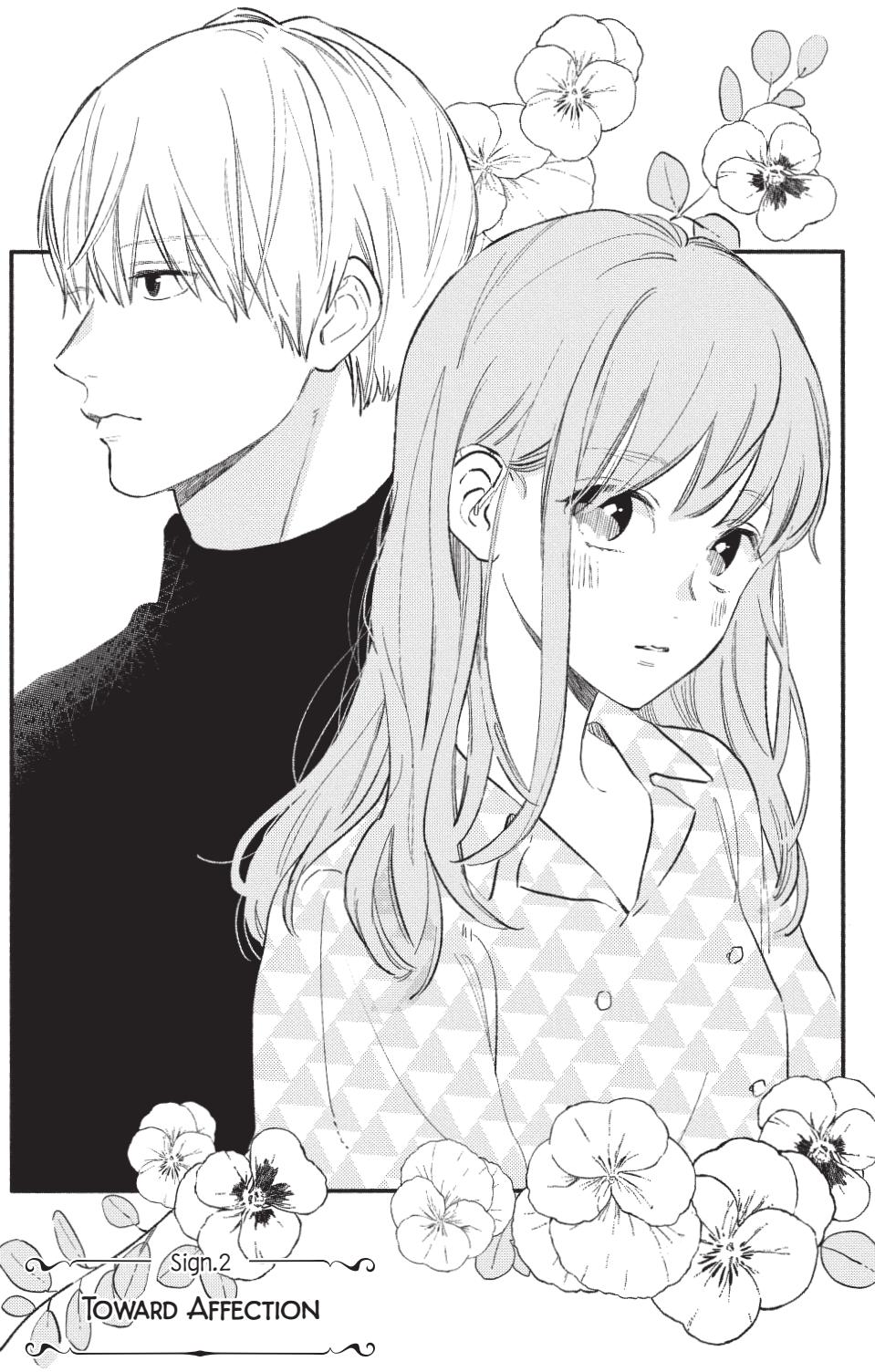












Sign.2

TOWARD AFFECTION

THIS
FLURRY OF
FEELINGS...

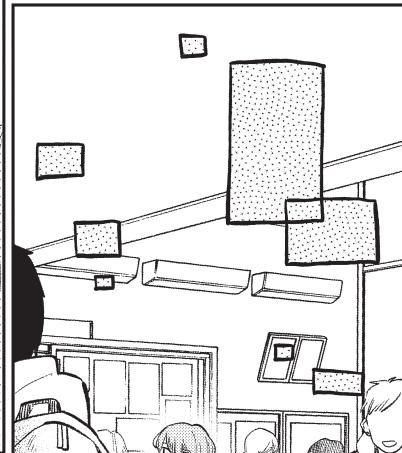
...FLUFFY
WHITE...

...STARTED
PILE UP
SOMEWHERE IN
MY HEART.

AFTER
THAT...

...TIME
AND TIME
AGAIN ...

...MY THOUGHTS
TURNED TO
ITSUOMI-SAN.





I
THINK...

...IN MY
WHOLE
LIFE...

I'M
NERVOUS
JUST BEING
NEXT TO
HIM.

Were you
nervous when
you asked him?

HA
HA HA!
Enough said!

GRAB

Let me into Yuki's world?

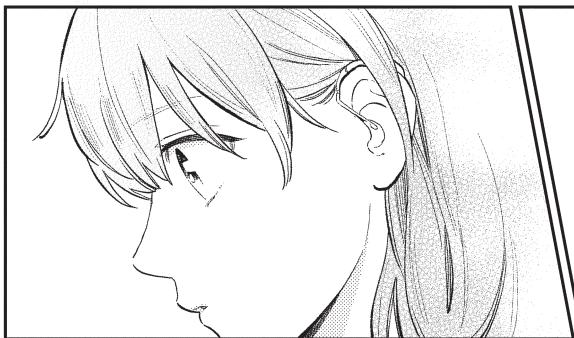
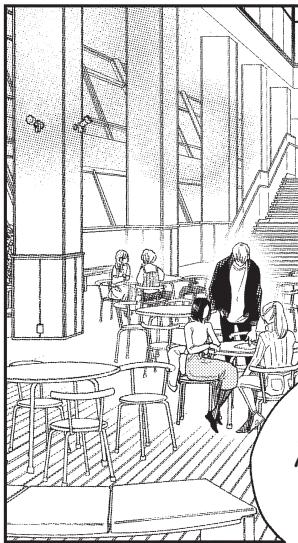
...THIS
IS THE
MOST I'VE
EVER...

I KEEP
LOOKING
AT IT OVER
AND OVER.

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

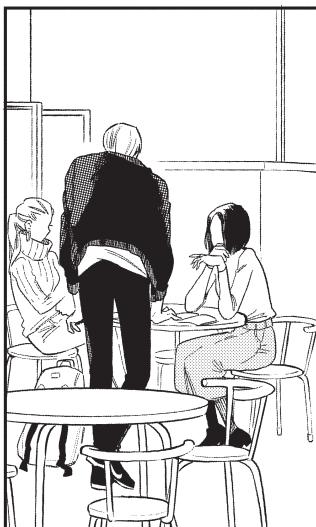
TREMBLE

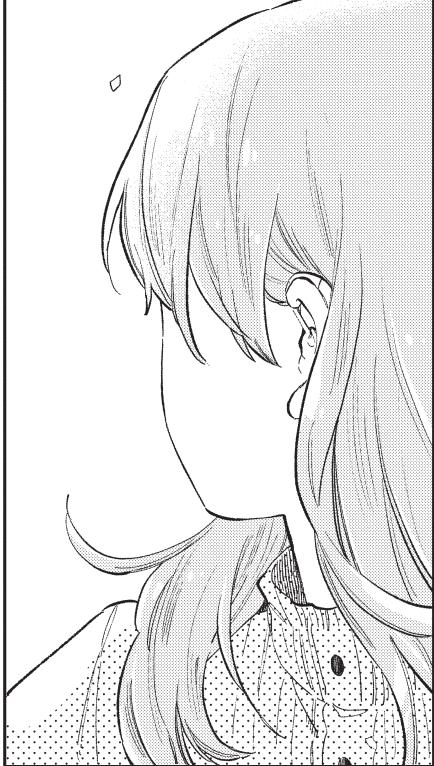
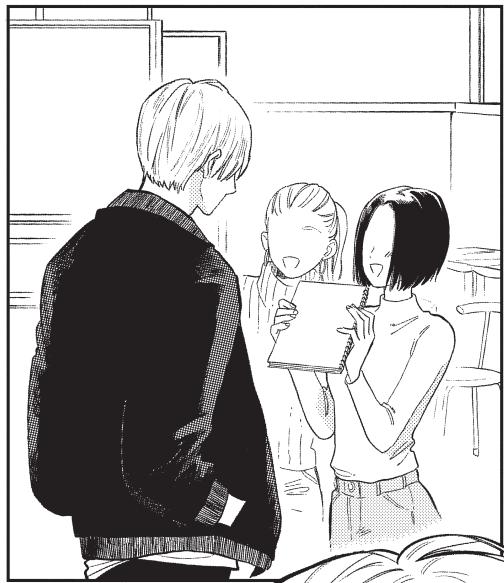


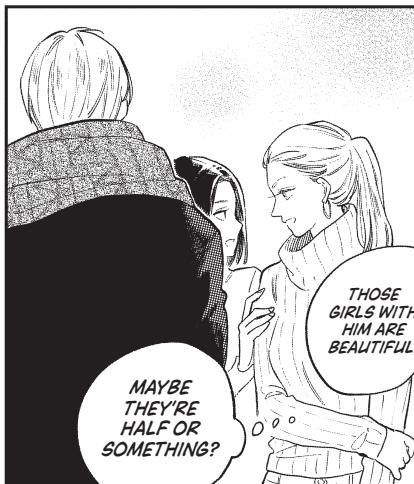
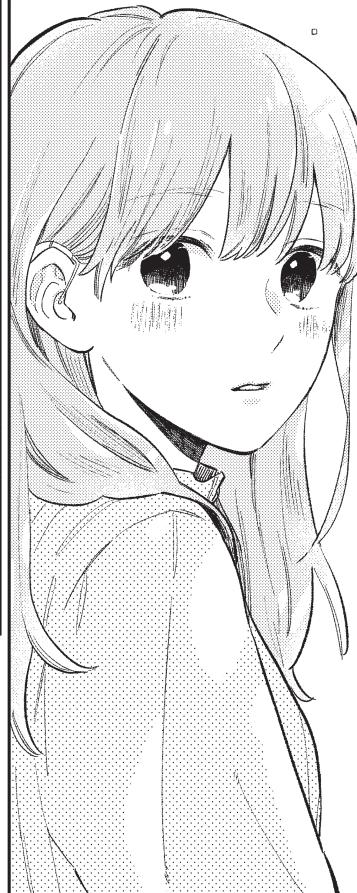
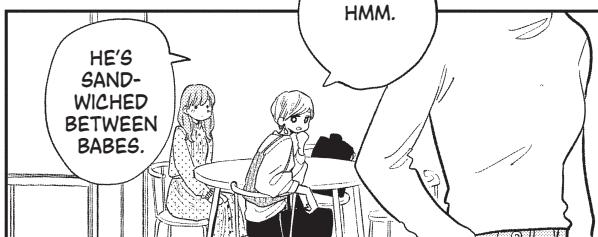
meet me here
because

Rin

The International
Club meets here
all the time.







HIS
MOUTH IS
MOVING...

...PRETTY
QUICKLY,
BUT...

...I DON'T
THINK HE'S
SPEAKING
JAPANESE.

Let me into Yuki's world?

COULD
IT BE...

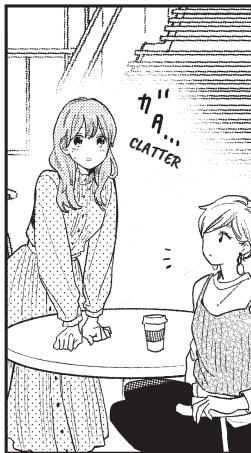
EVEN IF
THAT'S
TRUE...

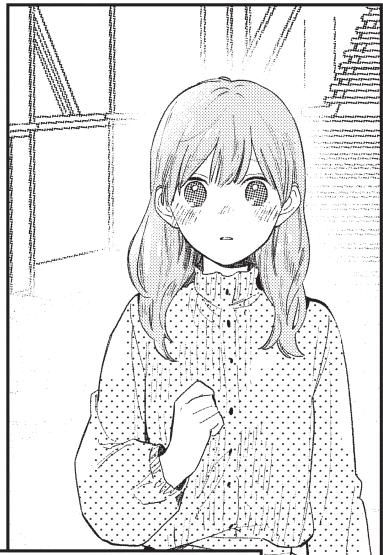
...HAVING
ITSUOMI-
SAN IN MY
LIFE...

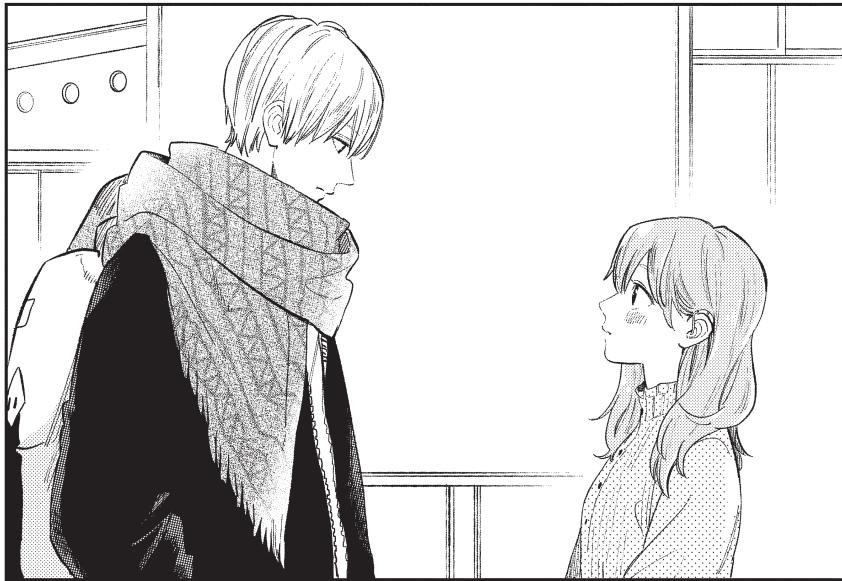
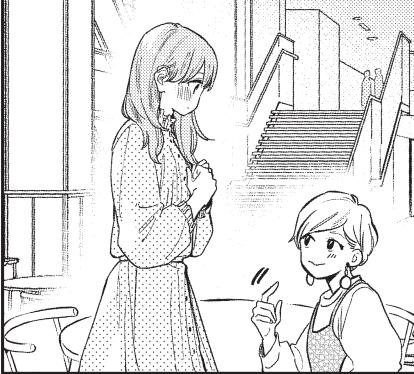
...MAKES
ME
FEEL...

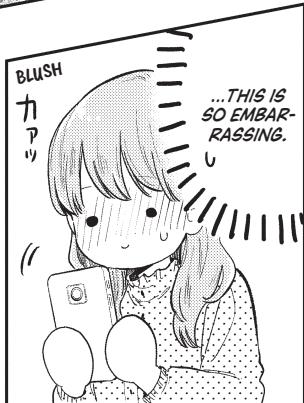
...HE ONLY
SENT THAT
BECAUSE
HE'S NEVER
MET A DEAF
PERSON...

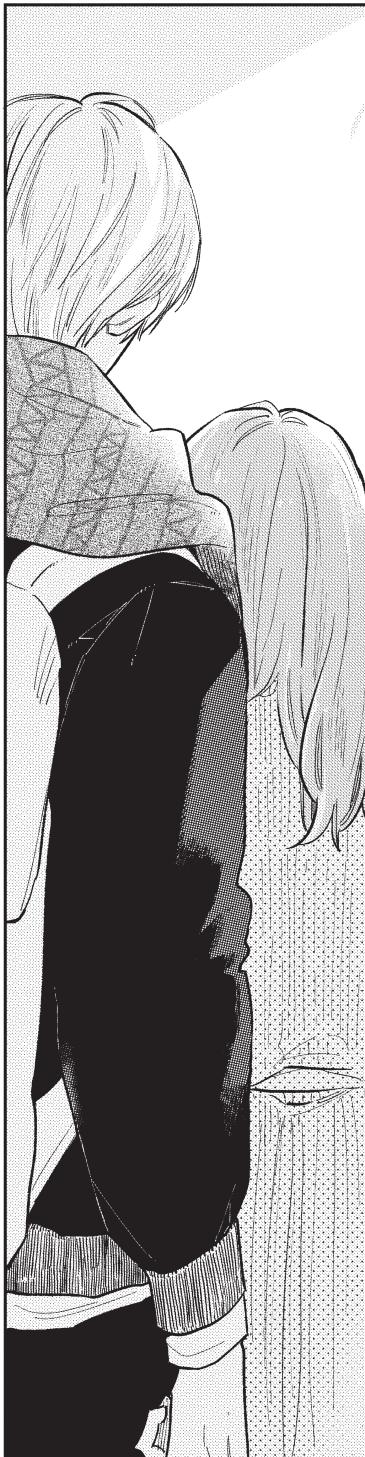
...AND
I'M LIKE A
FOREIGN
EXCHANGE
STUDENT
TO HIM?

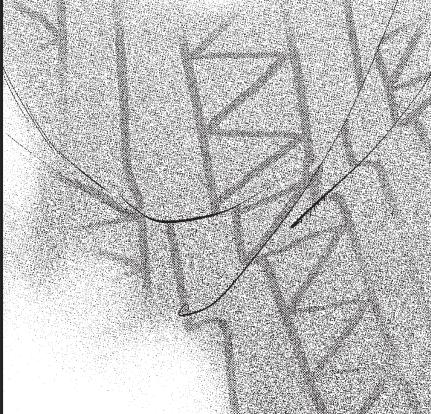
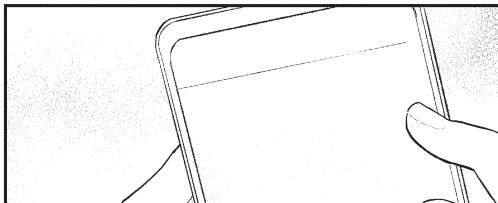


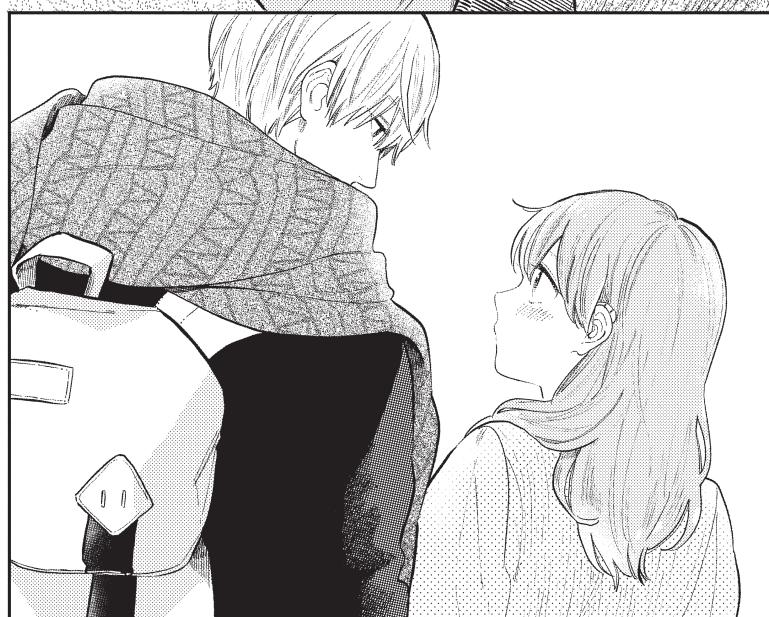


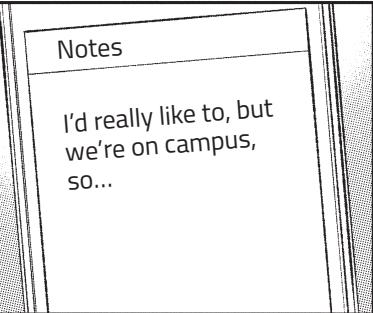




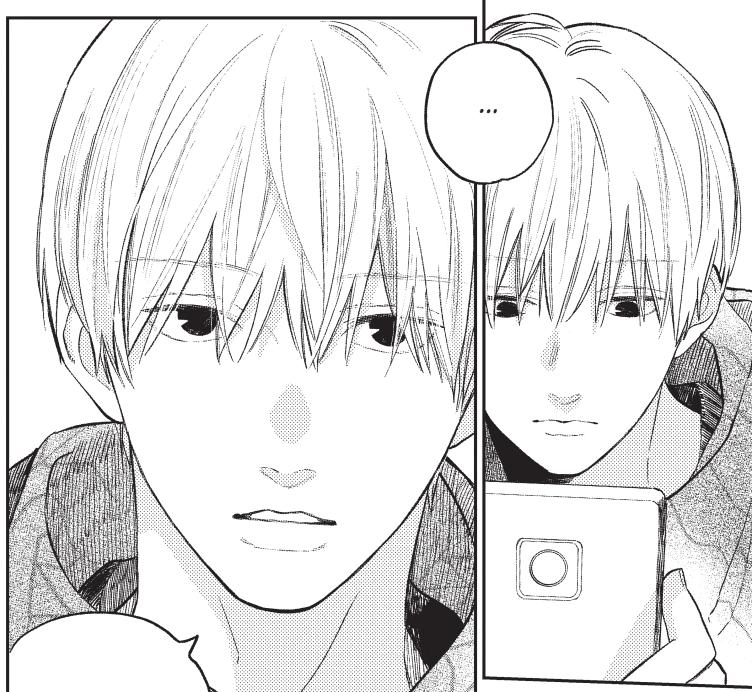








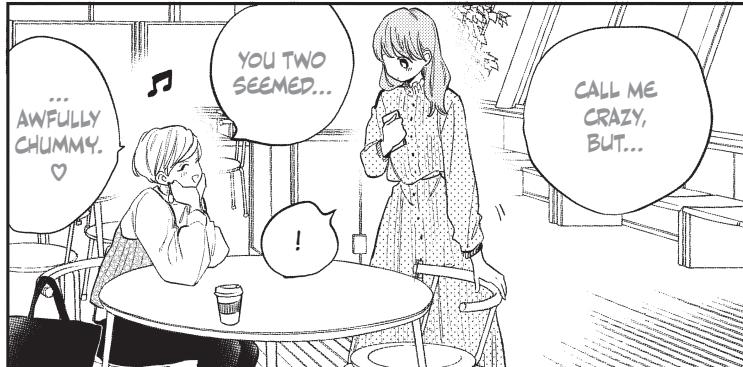
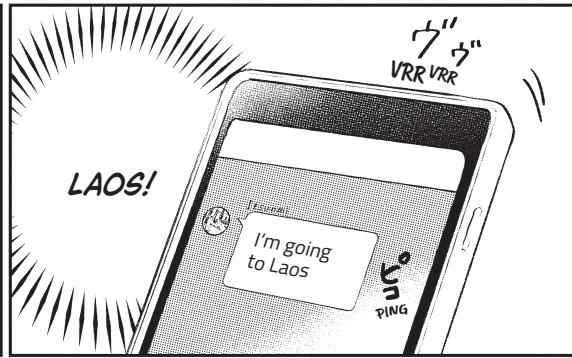
...НУН?



THAT'S
KINDA
CUTE.

↑
Yuki



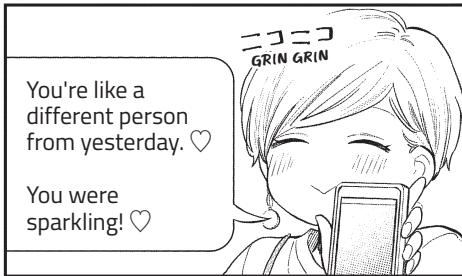




↙ Rin-chan's cell phone's screen

When you were
close to him, you
were glowing, Yuki.

It's definitely
luuuuuv. ❤



HUH...?

I LOOK...
DIFFERENT
FROM
YESTERDAY?



WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
ADMIRATION
AND LOVE,
ANYWAY...?





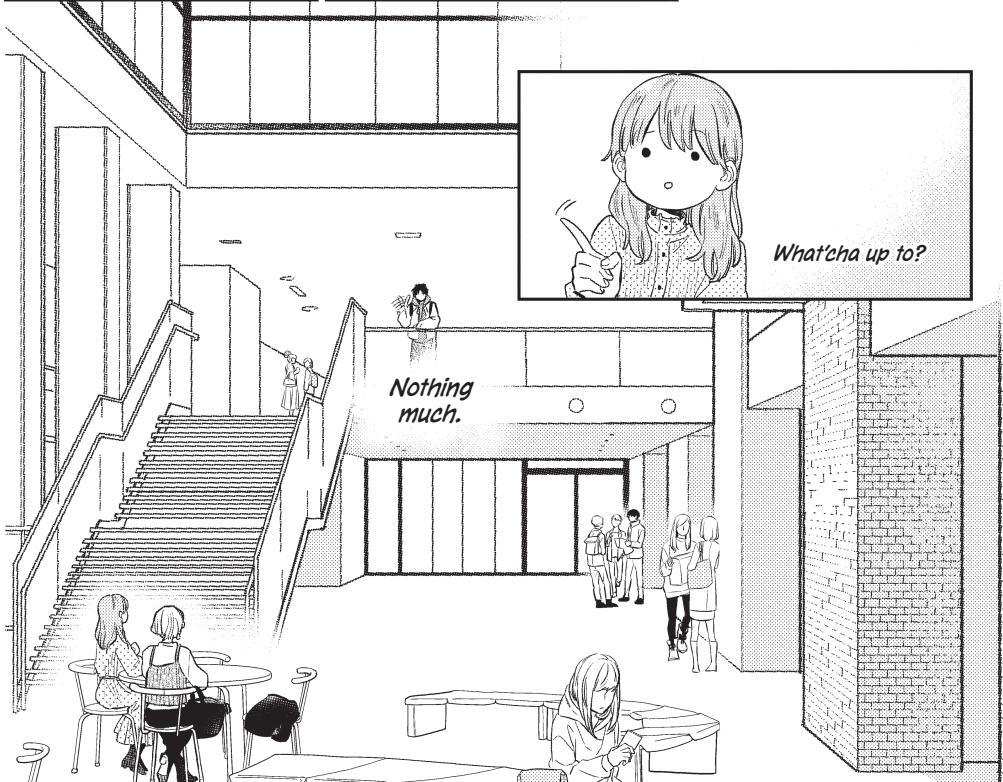
IT'S
MR. OLD
FRIEND.



OLISHI-
KUN.

Just now...









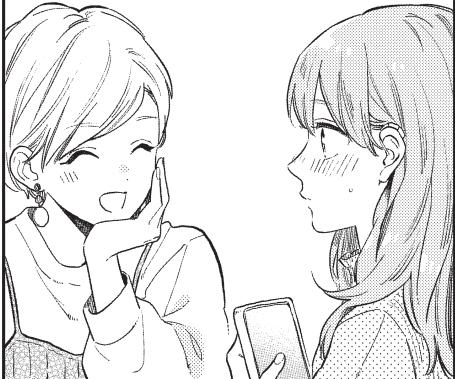
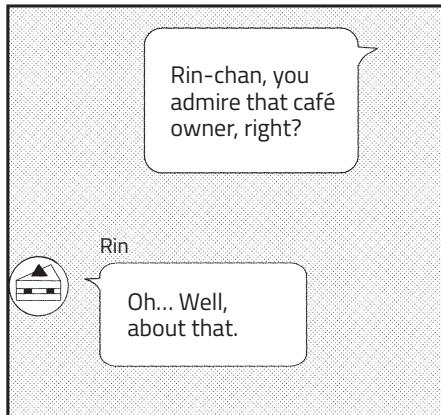
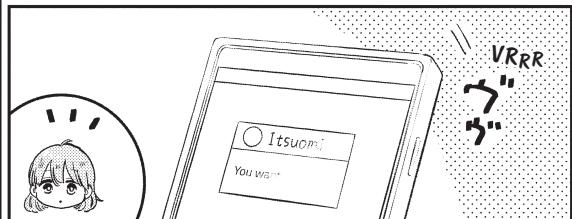
Itsuomi

You want a souvenir?
Or not?

Ah.
YOU'RE LUCKY.

IT'S
ITSUOMI-SAN.

MAYBE,
BUT HE DID
LEARN IT...



Rin

If you don't know
which it is

Rin

You should pick
one for yourself.

He's
so
nice.
♥

SEEING HIM
YESTERDAY,
NOW I KNOW
IT'S LOVE!
♥♥♥

REALLY?!

Read

You mean I can
decide myself?

Yep! ♥

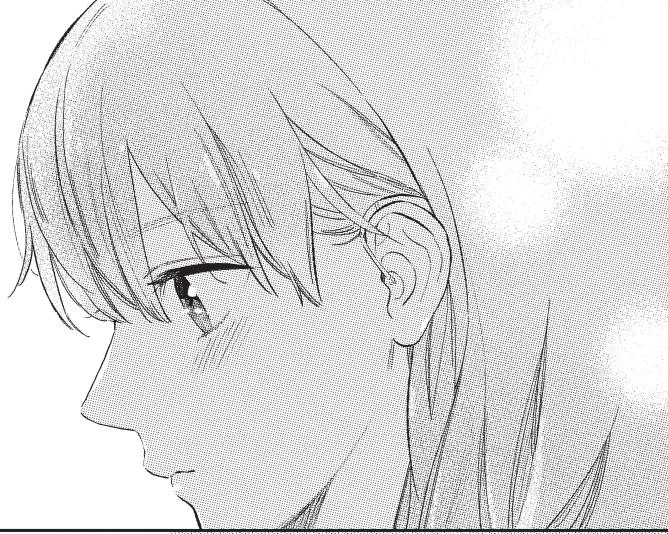
Eeeek!

SO IS IT
LOVE OR
ADMIRATION?

SHWIP

I'd like a
souvenir, yes.
Have a safe trip! ☺





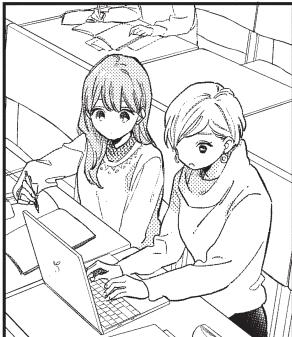
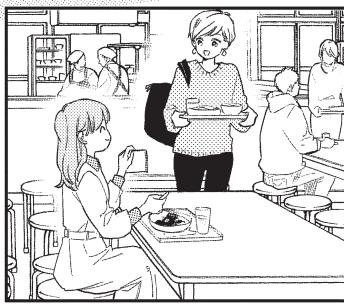
IS IT REALLY
SOMETHING I
CAN DECIDE?

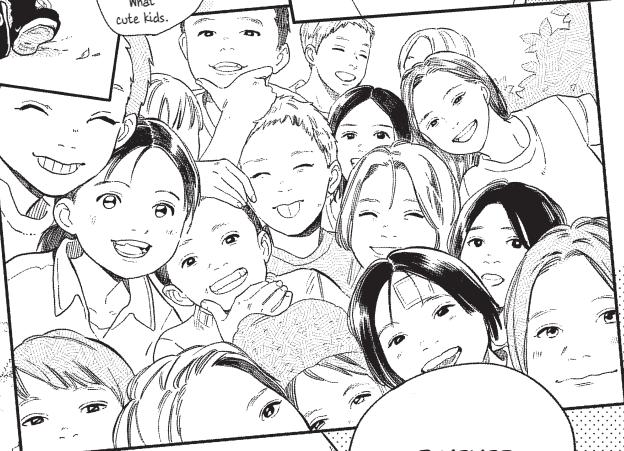
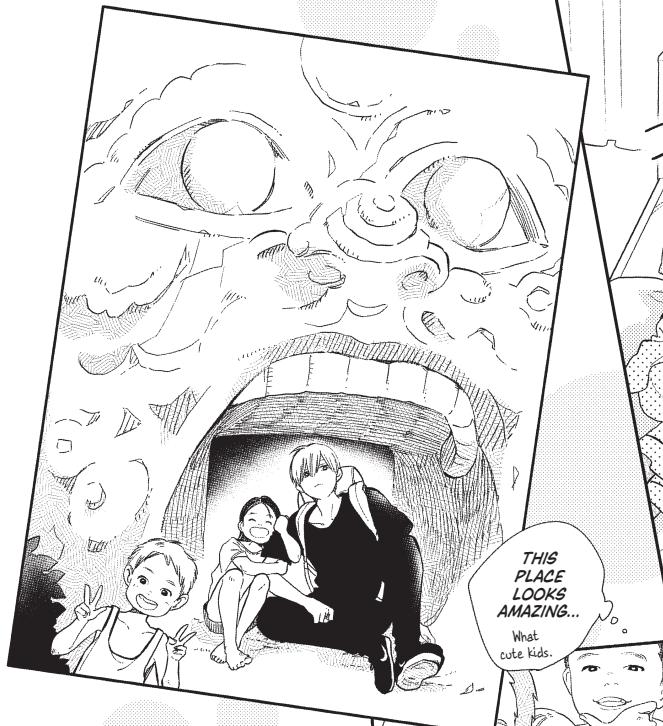
WHAT
HAS HE
SEEN?

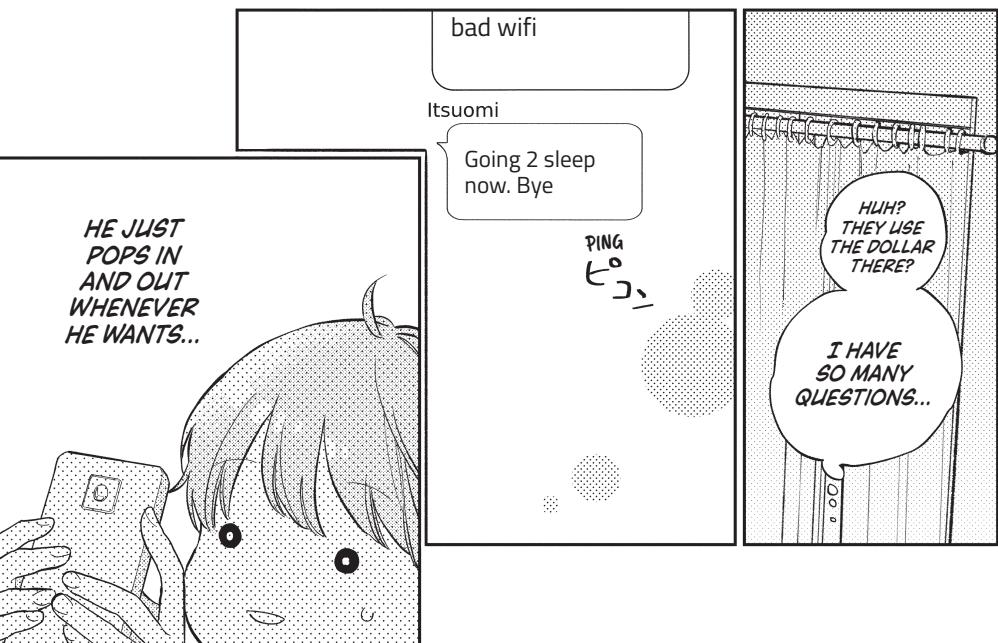
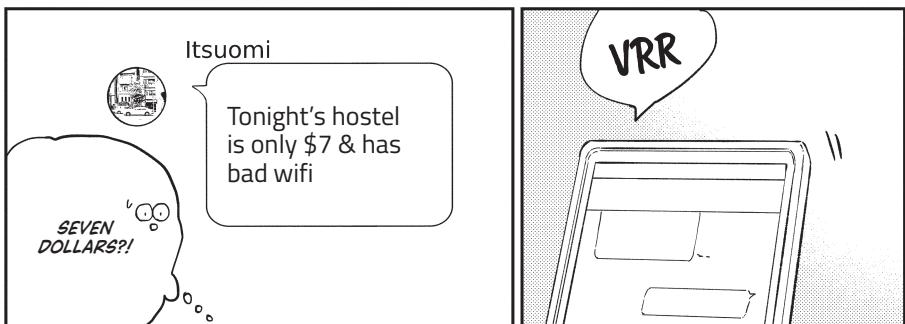
HAS
HE MET
ANYONE?

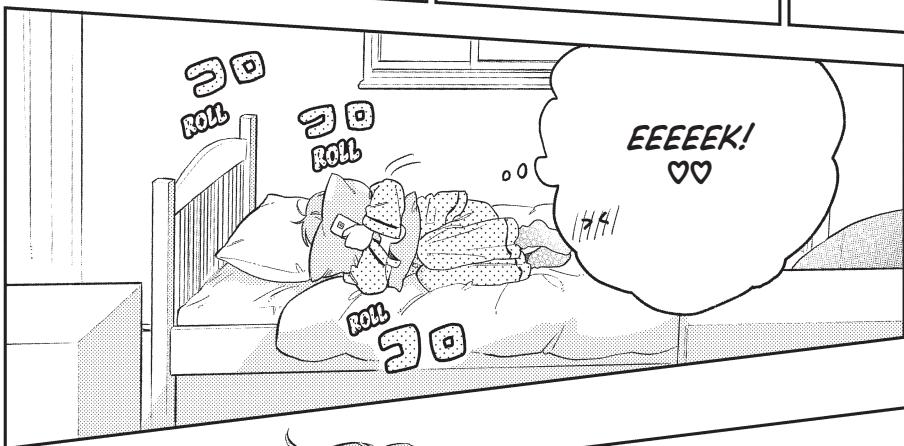
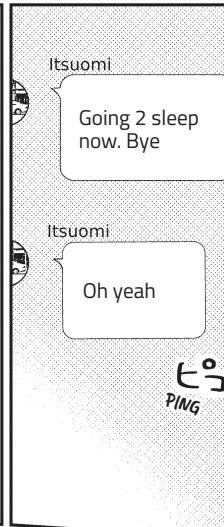
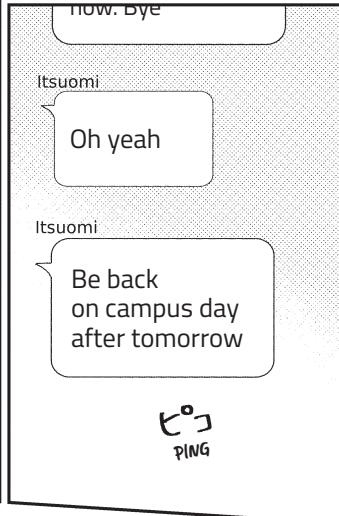
WHERE
IS HE?

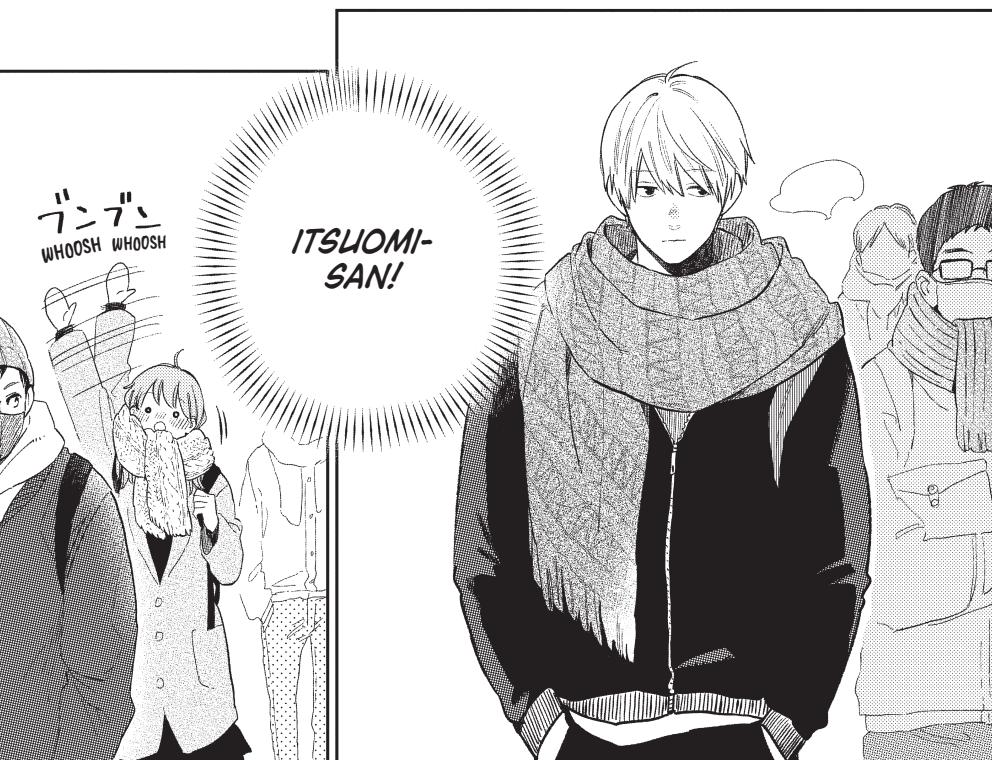
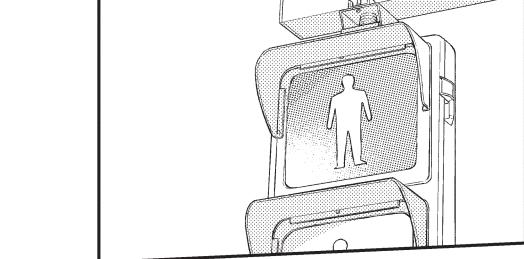
WHAT'S
HE
DOING,
RIGHT
NOW?

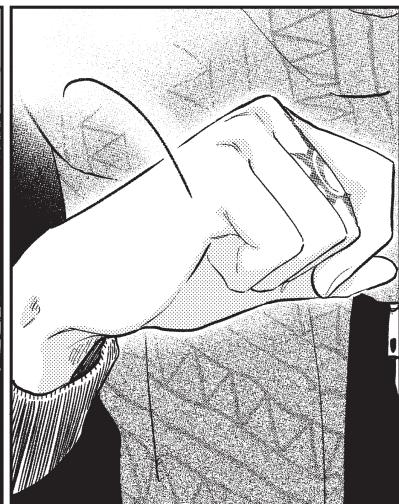
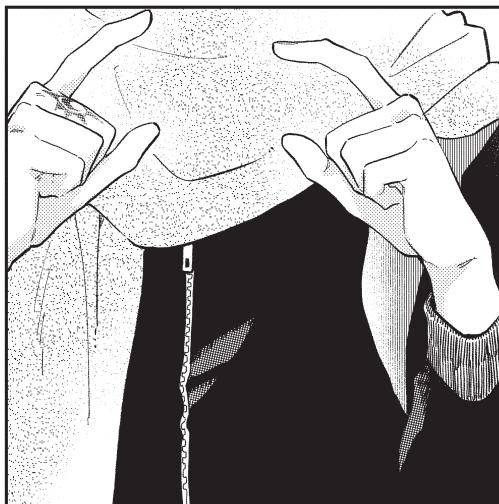
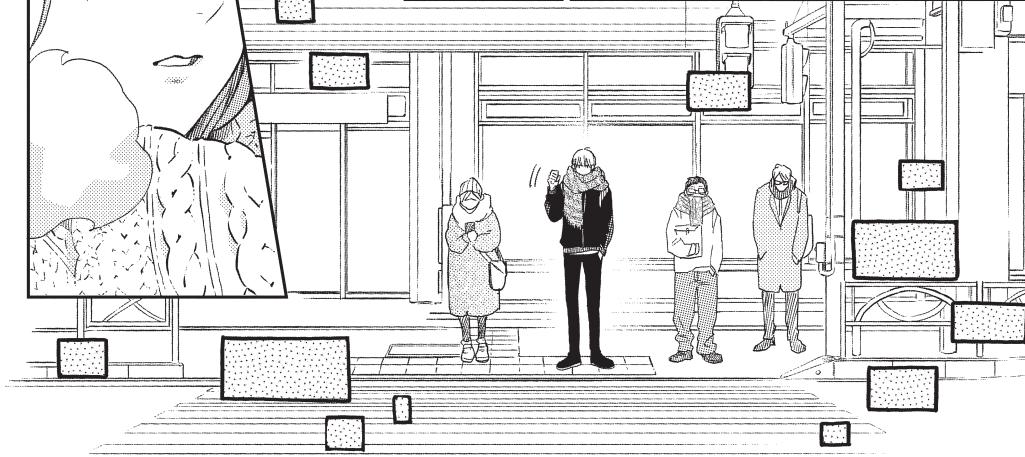


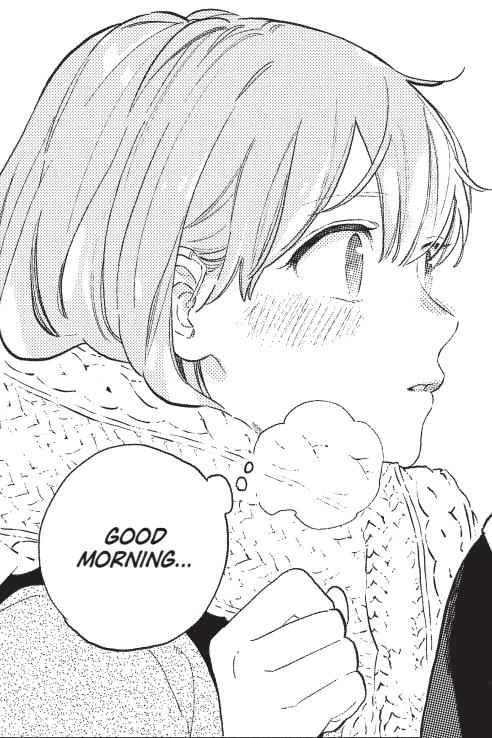


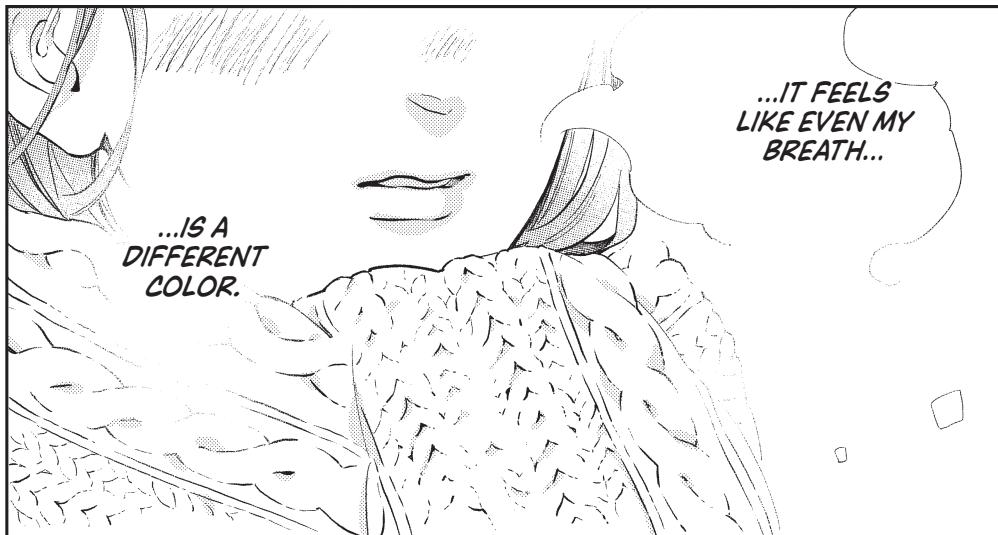












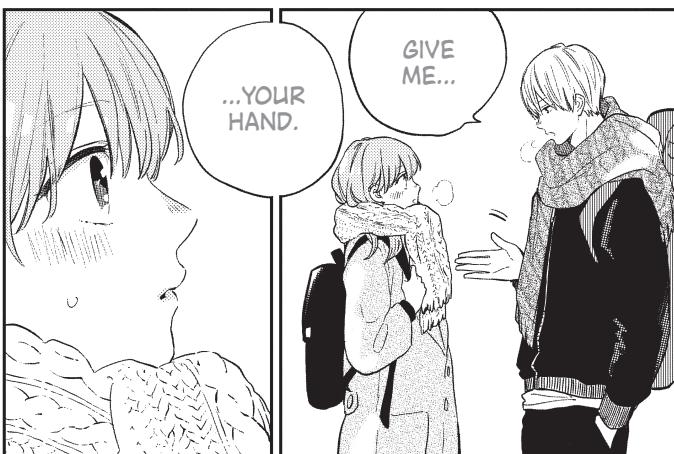
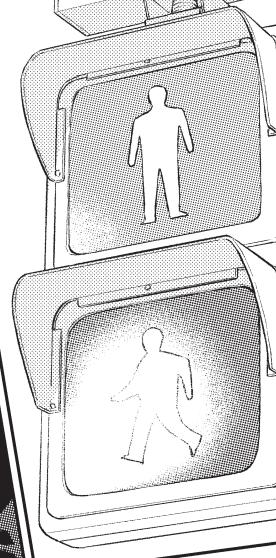


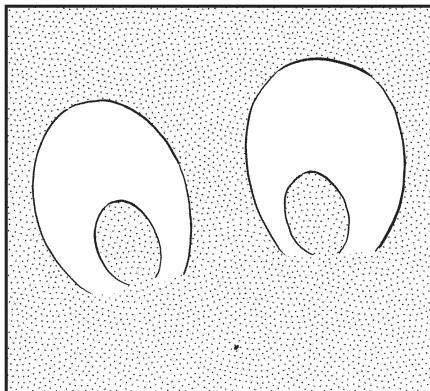
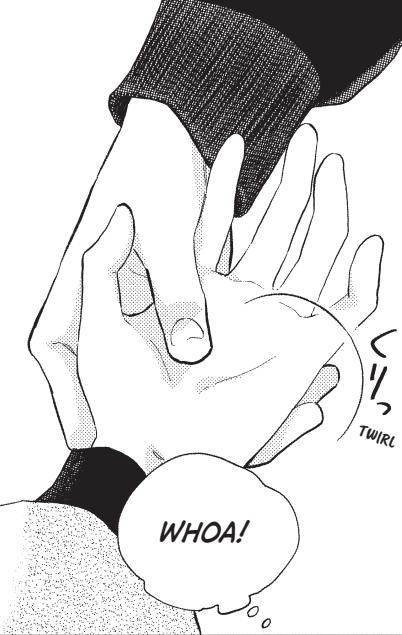
I WANT
THIS...

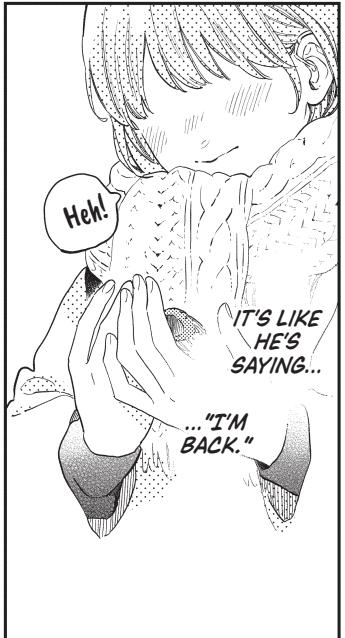
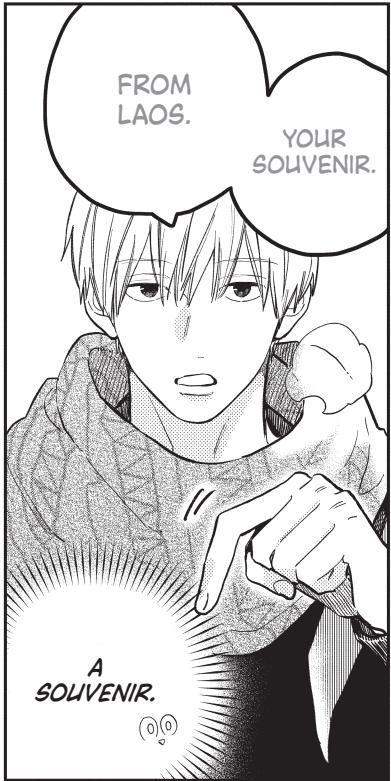


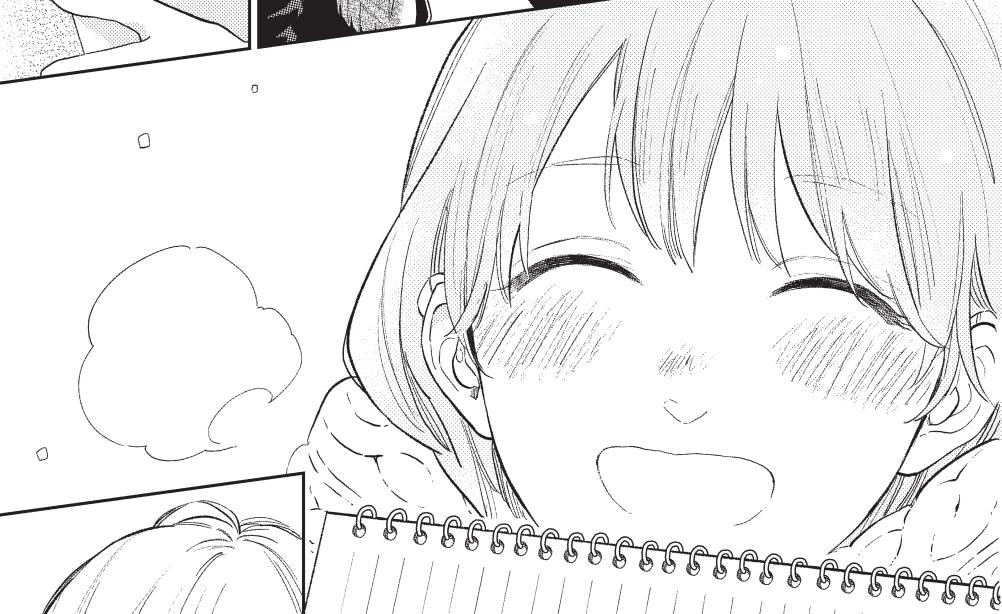
...TO BE
LOVE.

I
CHOOSE
LOVE.

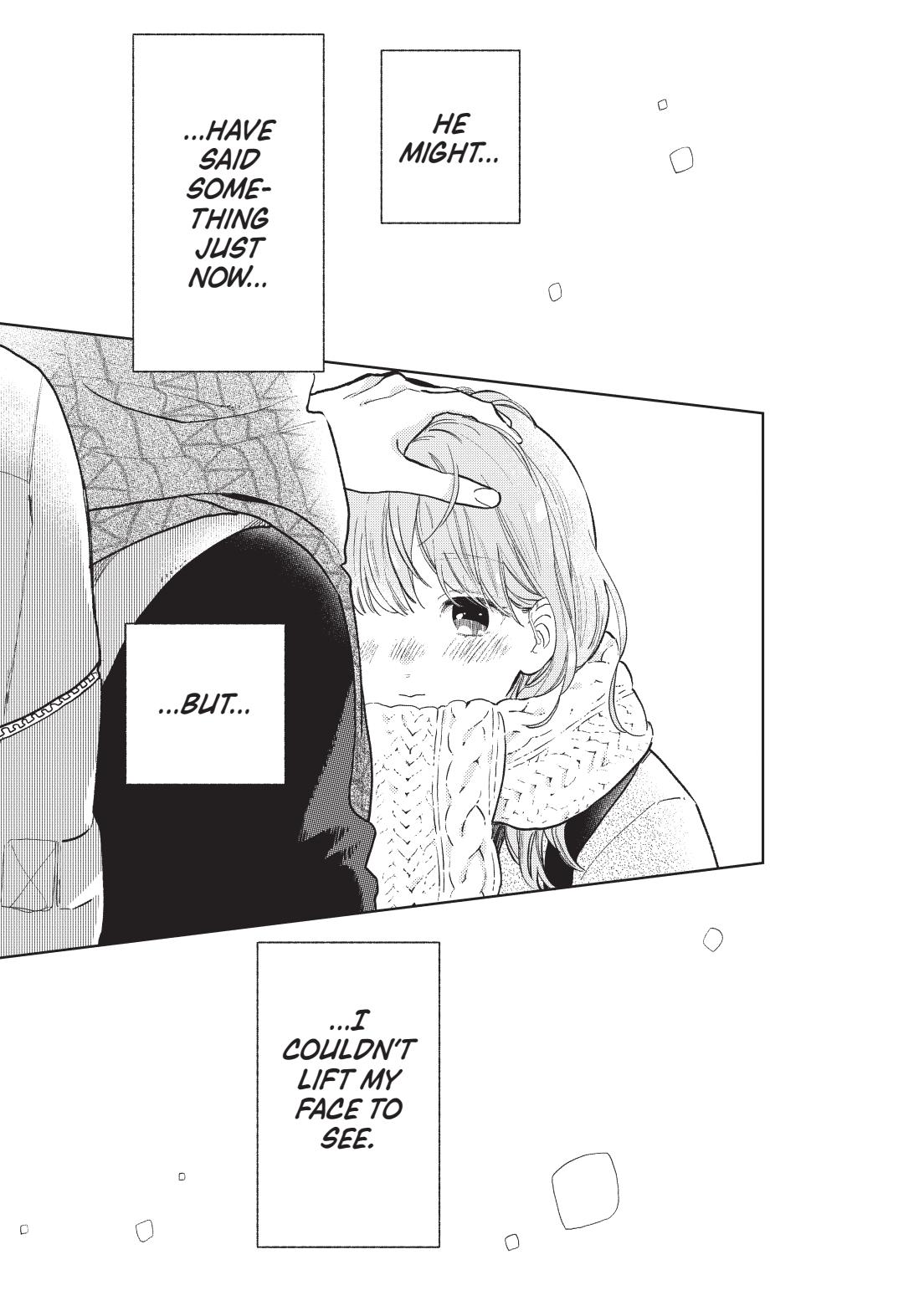












...HAVE
SAID
SOME-
THING
JUST
NOW...

HE
MIGHT...

...BUT...

...I
COULDN'T
LIFT MY
FACE TO
SEE.



About Sign Language

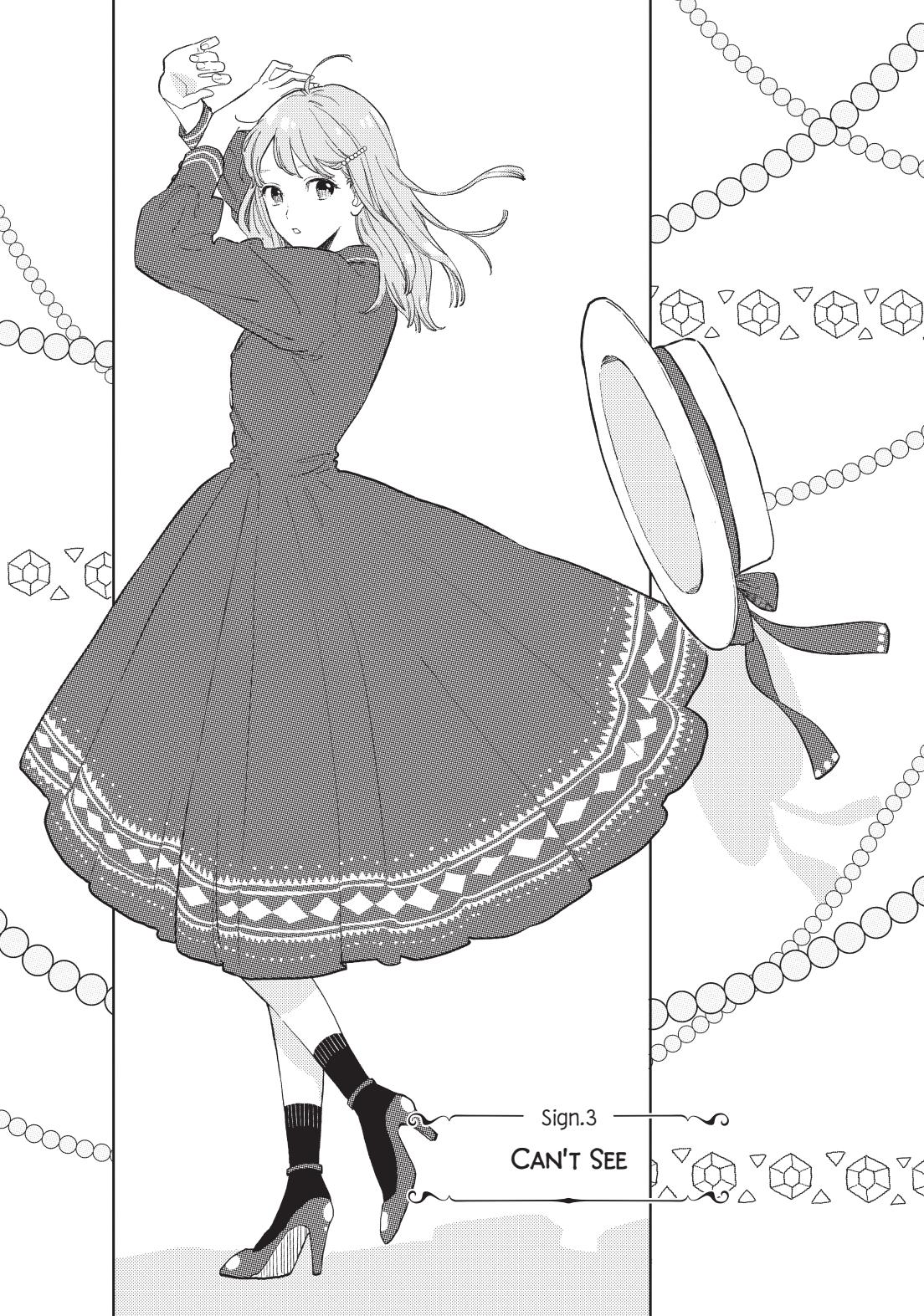
In Japan, Japanese Sign Language and *Nihongo taiou shuwa*, or "signed Japanese," feature different grammar systems.

In Signed Japanese, each gesture is meant to match a word or phrase, in order, in a Japanese sentence. Japanese Sign Language features its own unique grammar. This makes it richly expressive, like any other natural language. Japanese signs include facial expressions, eye movements, and other visual cues that are vital to correct communication.

With every generation, new idioms come into the language, and the vocabulary grows. My collaborator Yuki Miyazaki-chan, who consults on the signs used in this manga, is teaching me Signed Japanese, which she uses in her daily life.

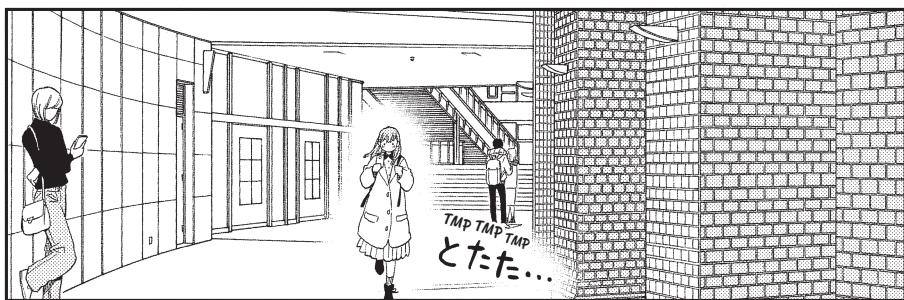
Please keep in mind that when sign language is depicted in small panels in this comic, some words get left out. I hope you can enjoy the manga anyway.

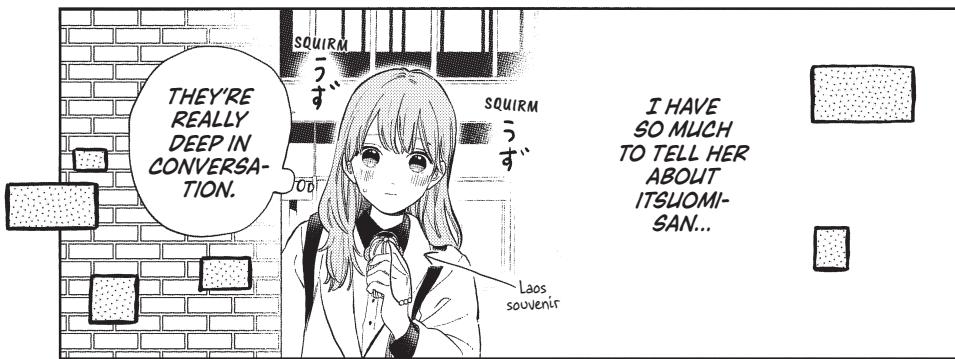
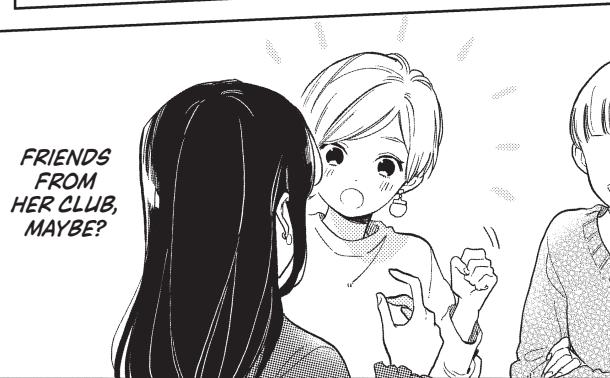
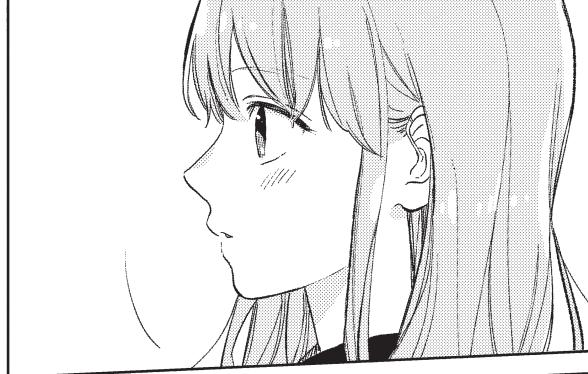


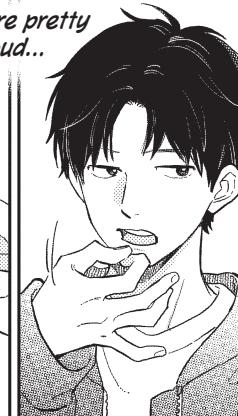
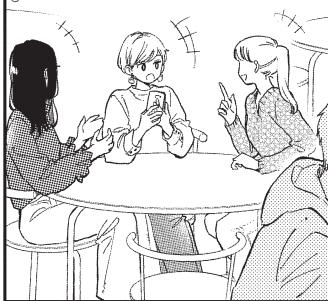


Sign.3

CAN'T SEE









That chick...

The second-year...

Sure. Like you weren't totally interested.



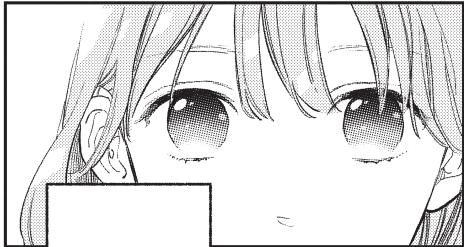
Yeah. And?



She's always taking notes on her laptop during class, right?



So she's that friend, huh?



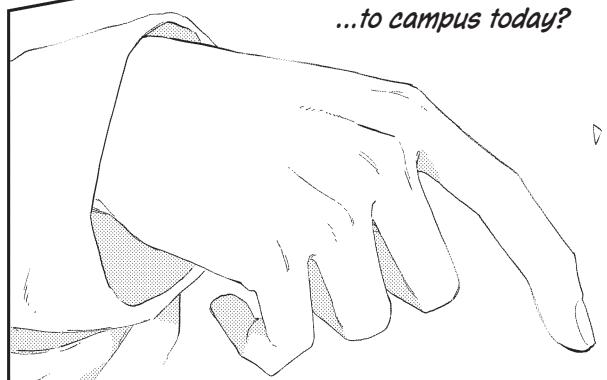
Why'd you come
all the way...

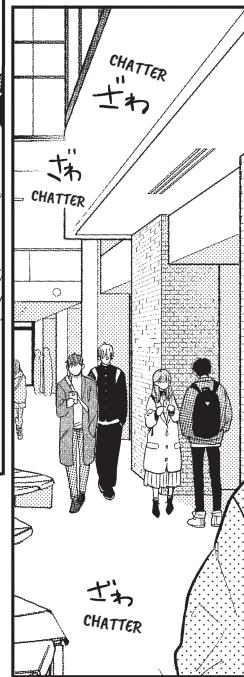


...HIS SLENDER,
GENTLE
FINGERTIPS...

...ARE
WORRIED
ABOUT ME.

SOMETIMES,
IT EVEN FEELS
LIKE...







...IT FELT
LIKE I WAS
STEPPING
INTO A NEW
WORLD.



SO WHEN
I TOOK
MY FIRST
COLLEGE
CAMPUS
TOUR...

I SPENT
KINDERGARTEN
UNTIL HIGH
SCHOOL ON THE
SAME CAMPUS.
I ONLY HAD FOUR
CLASSMATES.

BEING
AN ADULT,
AND NOT
AN ADULT
AT THE
SAME
TIME.

LOOKING
THE
WAY YOU
WANT TO
LOOK...

PUTTING
ON
MAKEUP
EVERY
DAY.

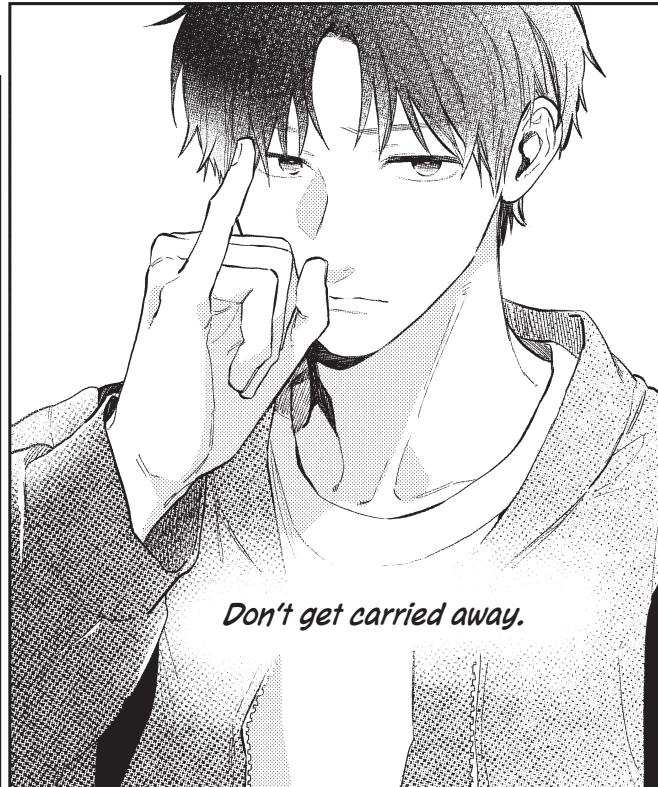
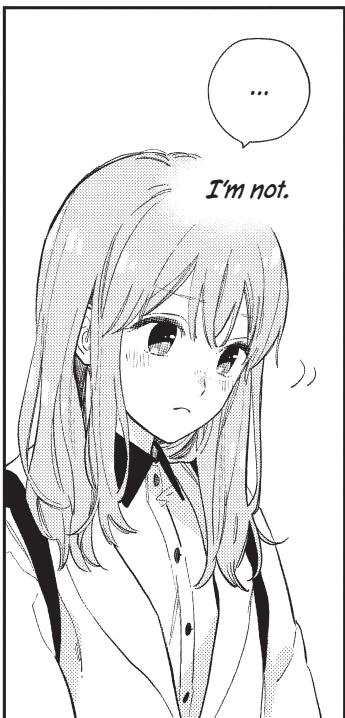
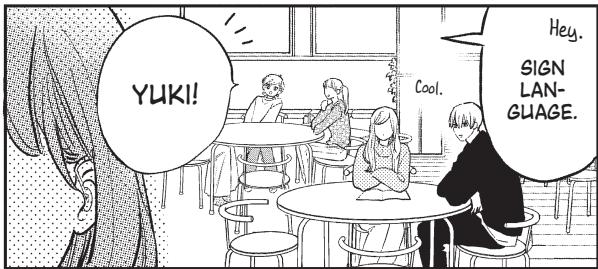
JOINING
A CLUB
AND
MAKING
NEW
FRIENDS.

CHOOSING
YOUR OWN
MAJOR.

...SPARKLED
LIKE PEOPLE
ON TV.

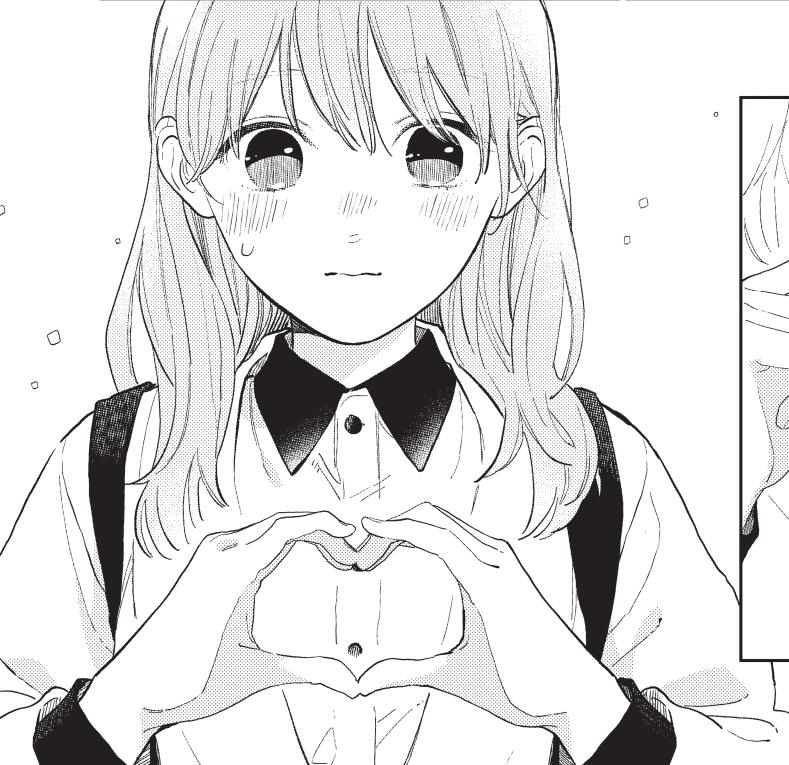
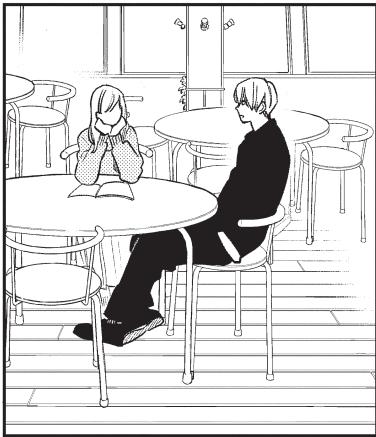
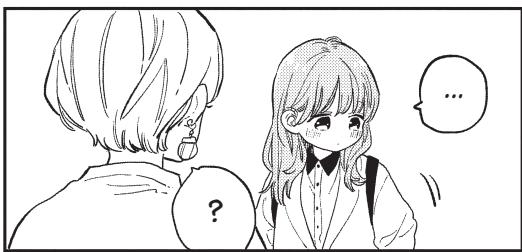
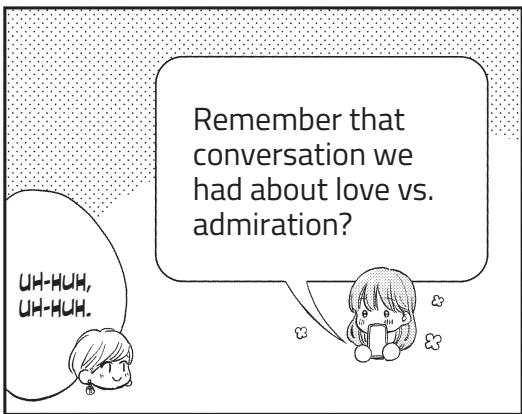
...THESE
COLLEGE
STUDENTS...

TO
ME...









Rin

Spring break's
almost here.



Rin

And college has long
breaks, you know?
You should use that
time to make
some PROGRESS.

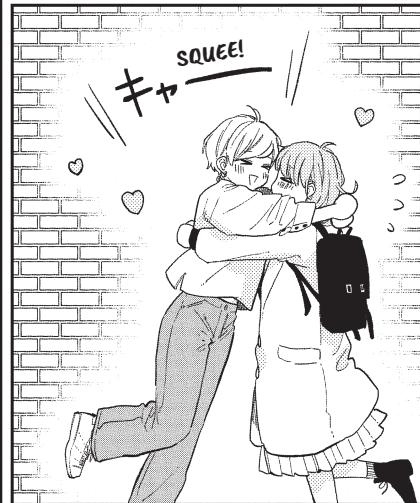


Progress?



BEEAM

110



I heard they're
single right now.

I already checked it out.

...

Do you think
Itsuomi-san and
the café owner
have girlfriends?

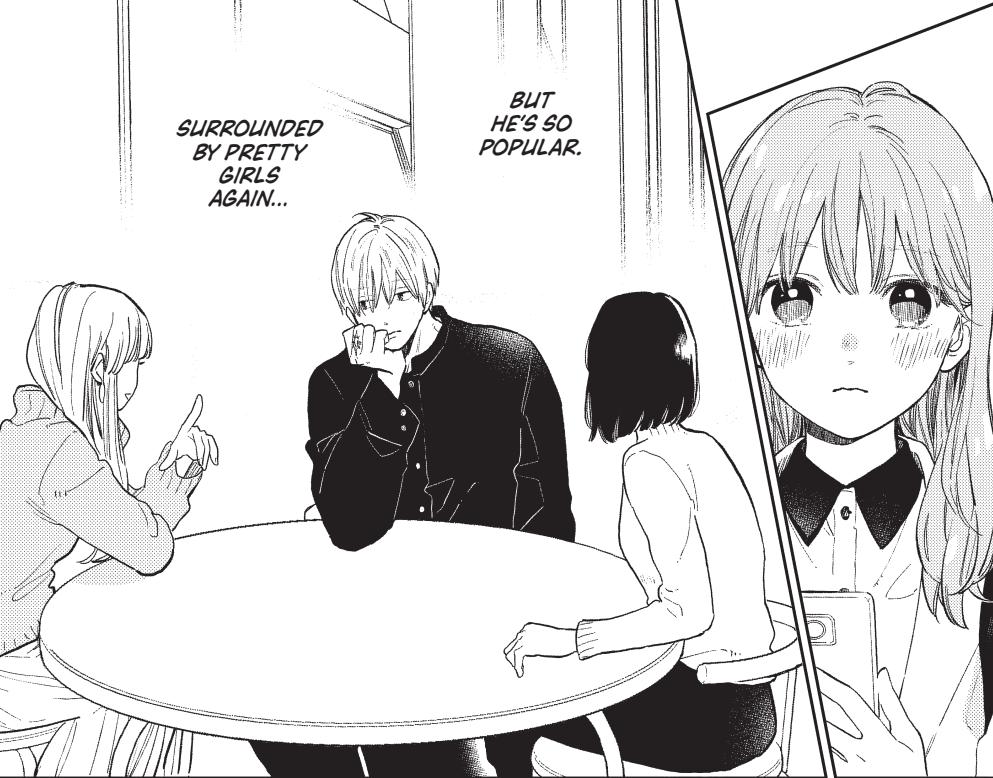
TAP TAP TAP
T=T=T
TAP TAP TAP
T=T=T

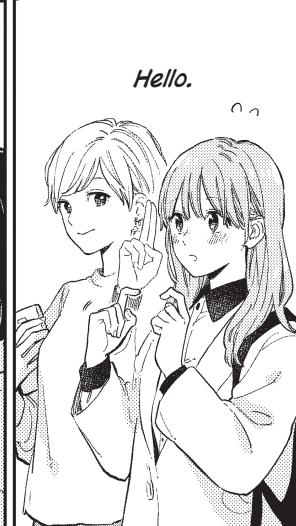
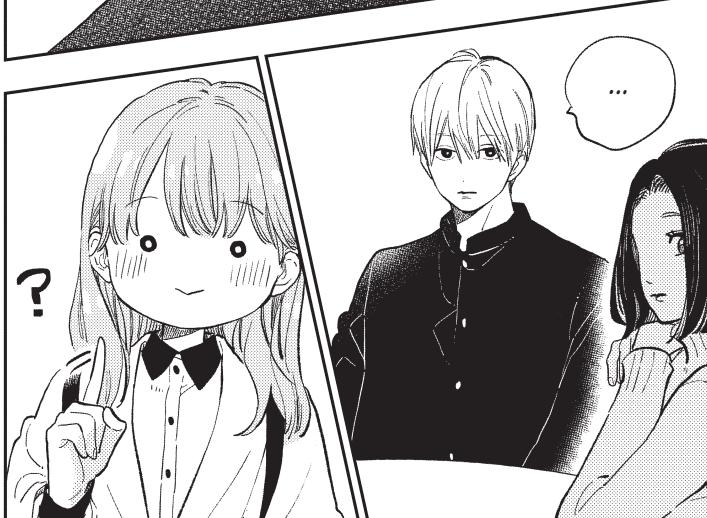
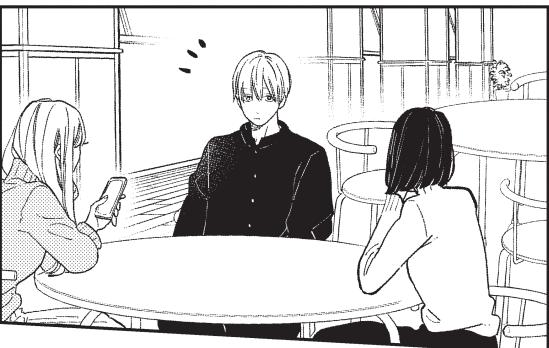
I wanna close the
distance between me
and the café owner.

T=TAP
T=TAP
T=TAP
T=TAP



T=TAP
T=TAP
T=TAP
T=TAP





Itsuomi

AH!

What did you
sign just now?

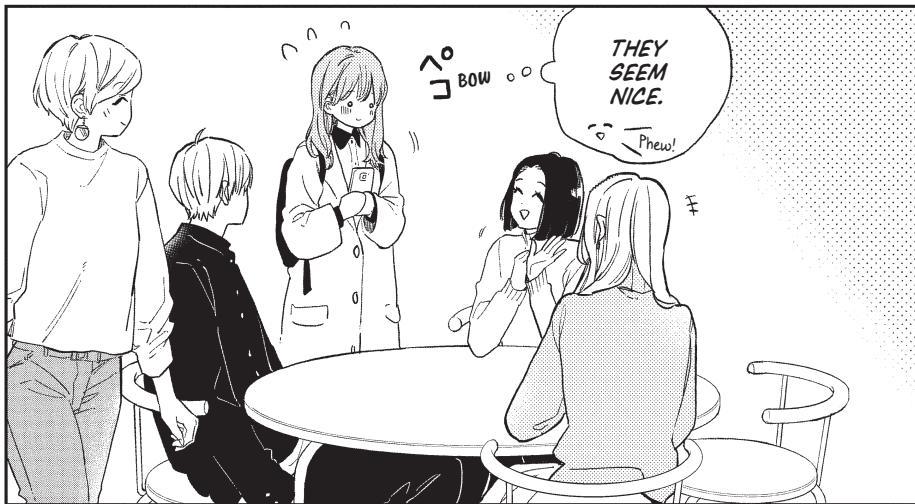
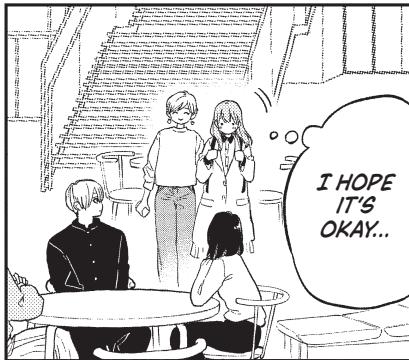


Yuki

It means like,
"What?" or,
"What's up?"

SHWIP

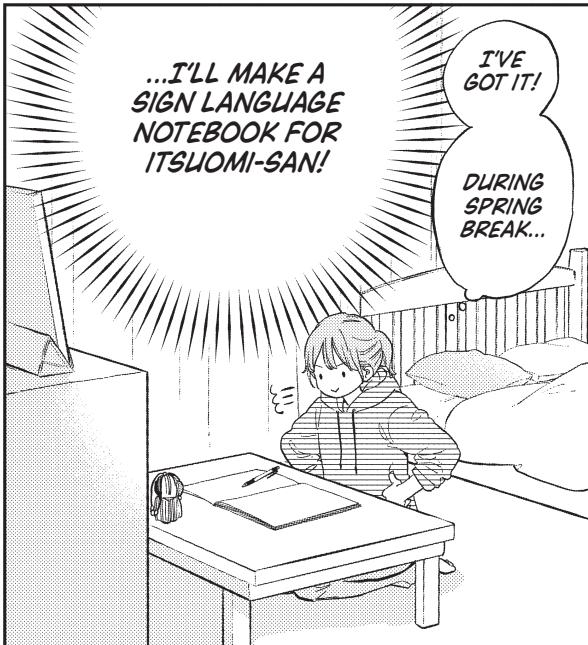
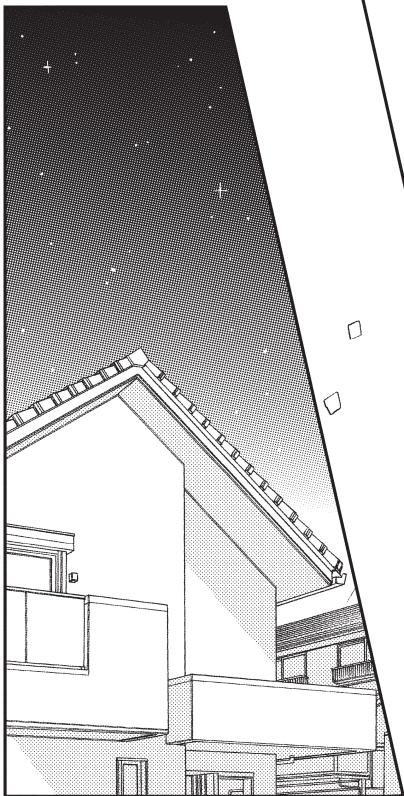


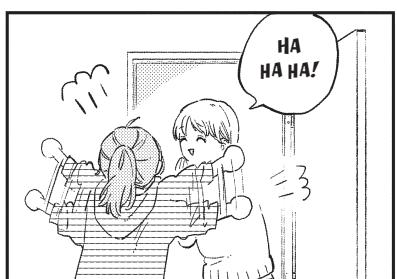
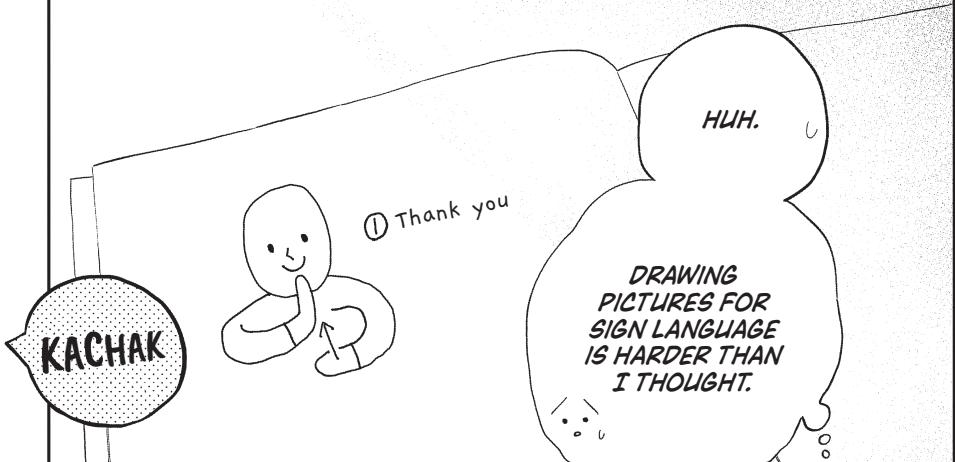


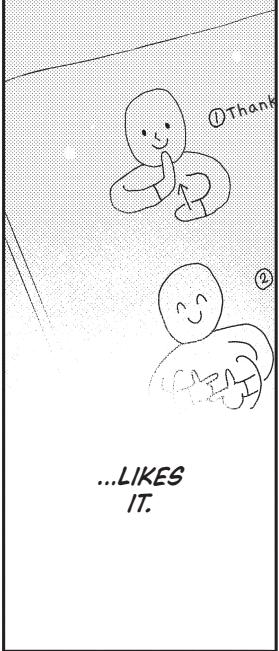


If you want to learn sign language, I'd be happy to teach you anytime.





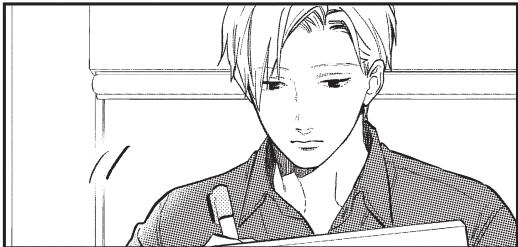




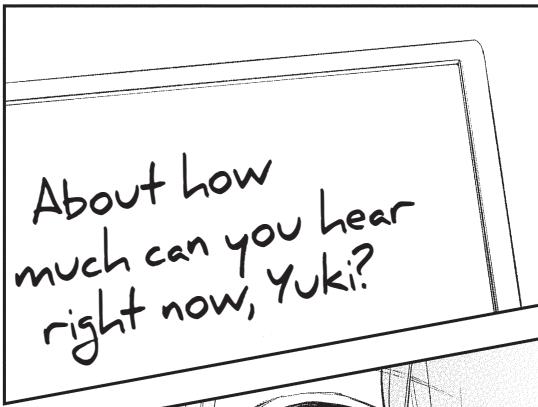
...LIKES
IT.



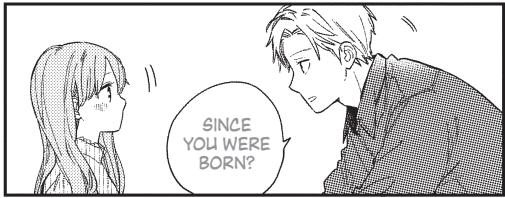
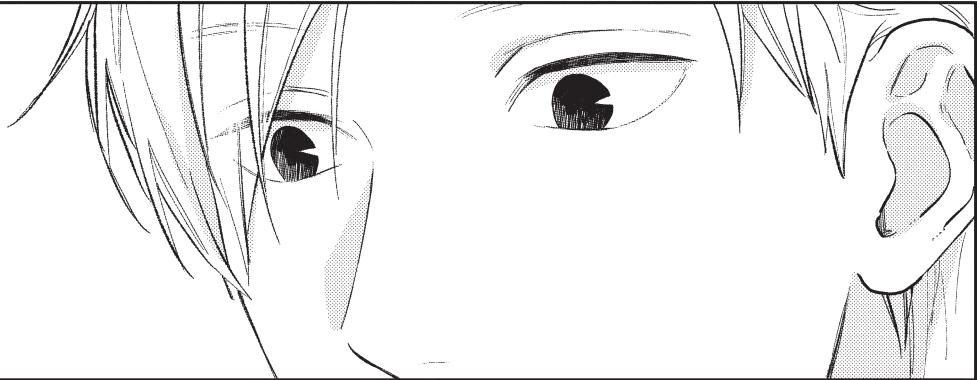
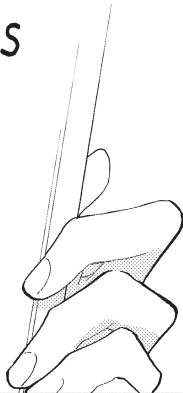


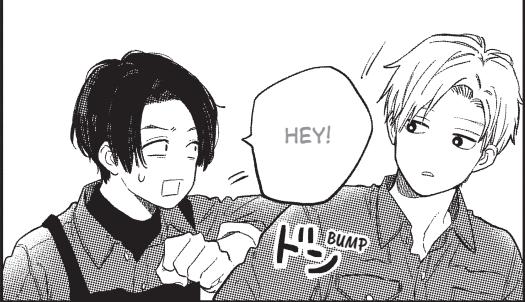
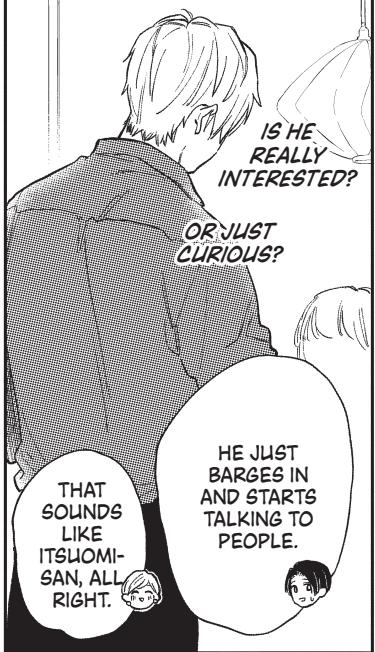


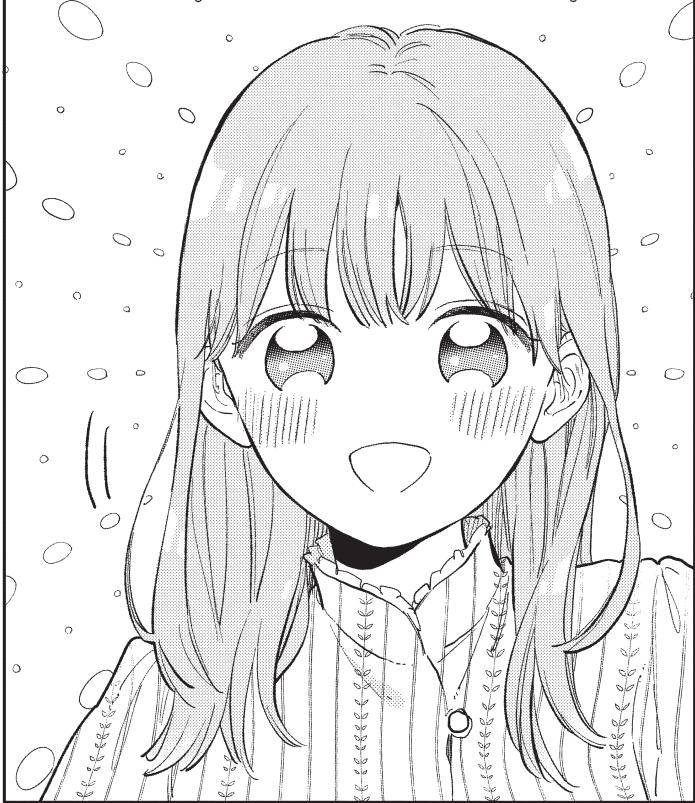
When my hearing aid's not in right, it makes feedback sounds.



I can't tell what sounds
come from where,
or what they are.

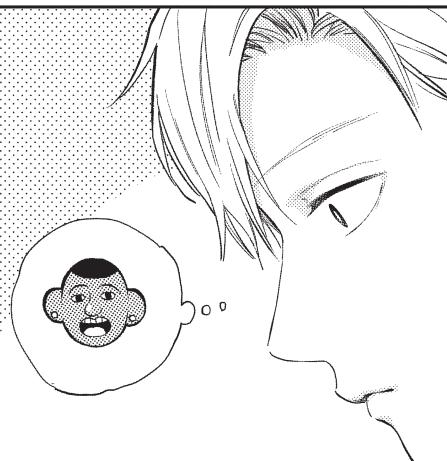
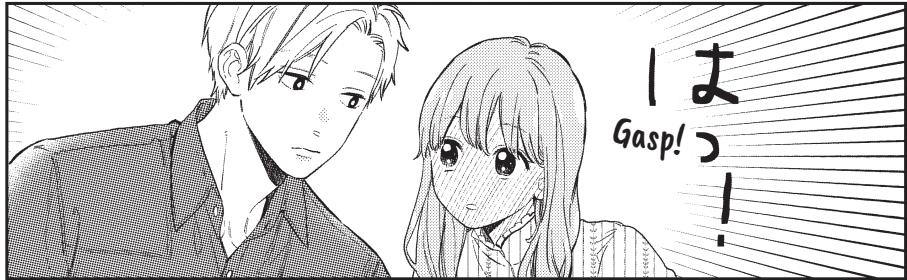






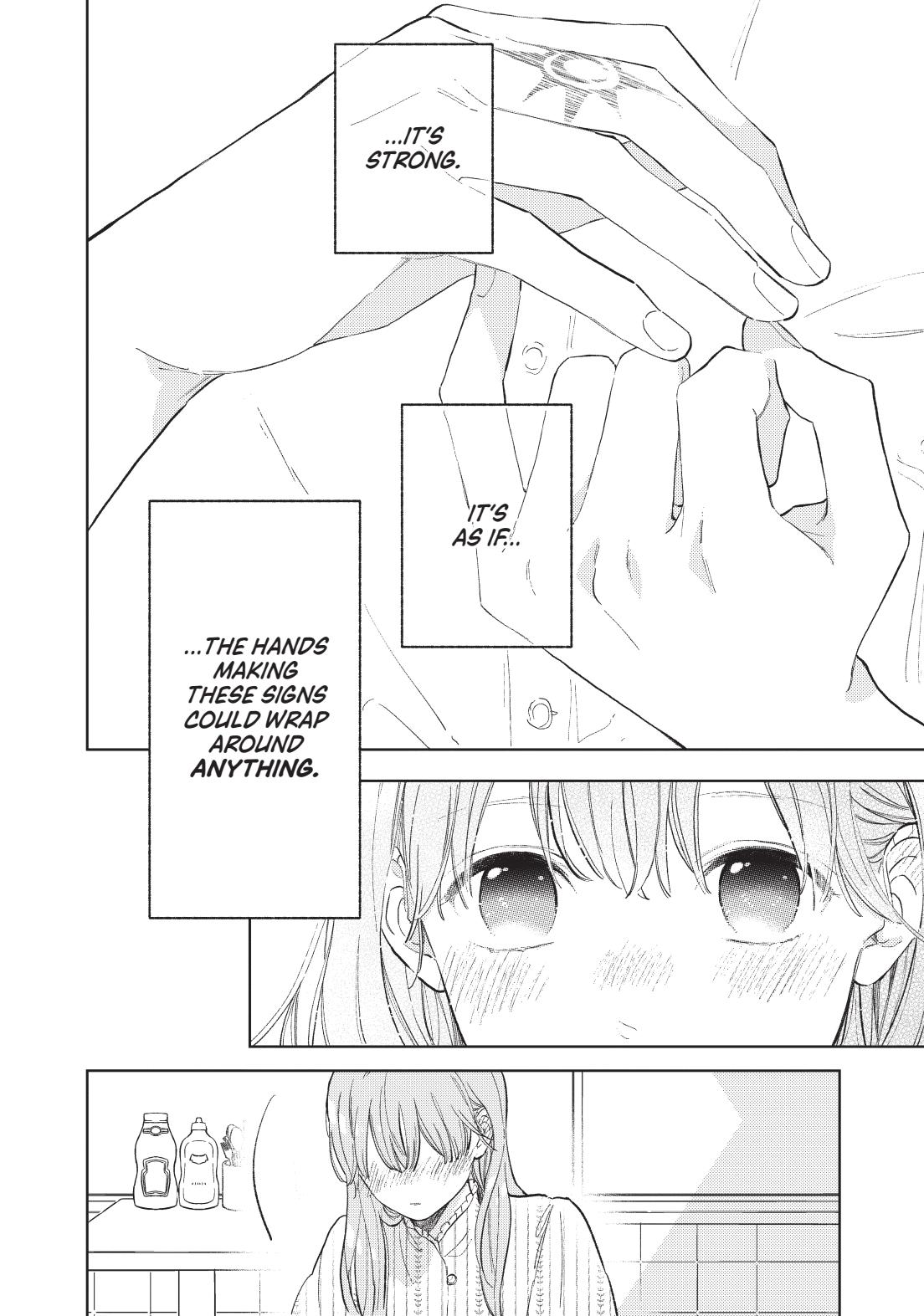


ITSUOMI-SAN'S
FINGERS...
ARE SO LONG...







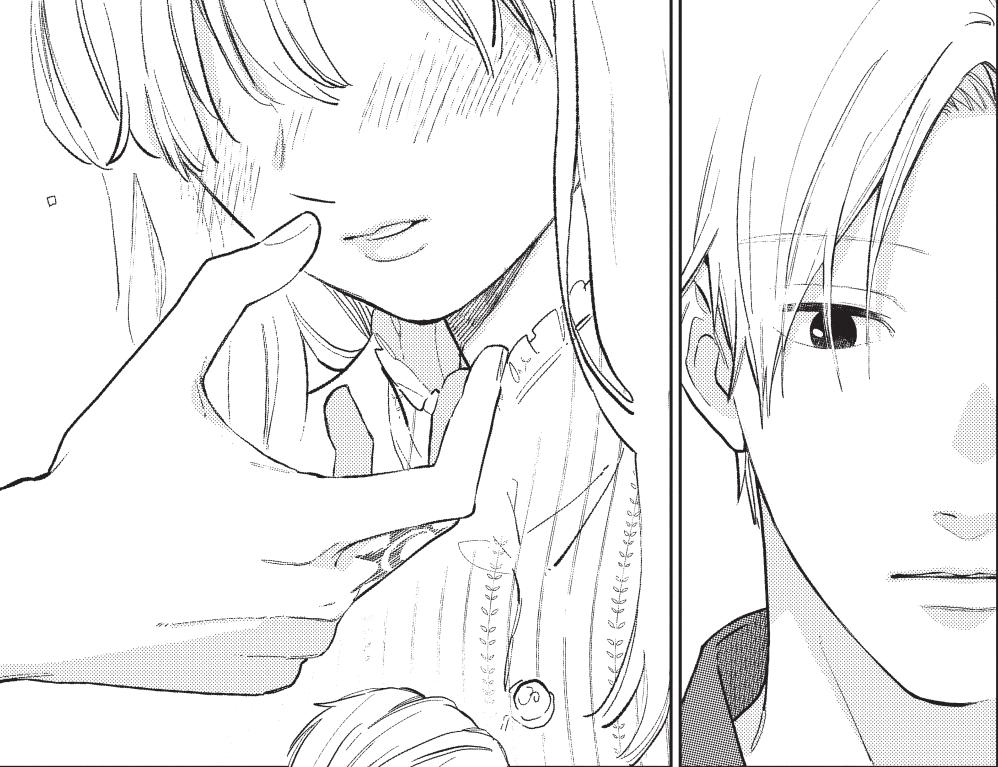


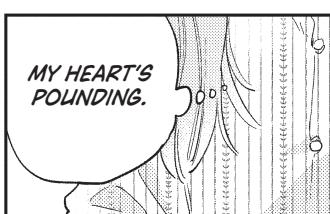
...IT'S
STRONG.

IT'S
AS IF...

...THE HANDS
MAKING
THESE SIGNS
COULD WRAP
AROUND
ANYTHING.







CAN HE
HEAR IT?

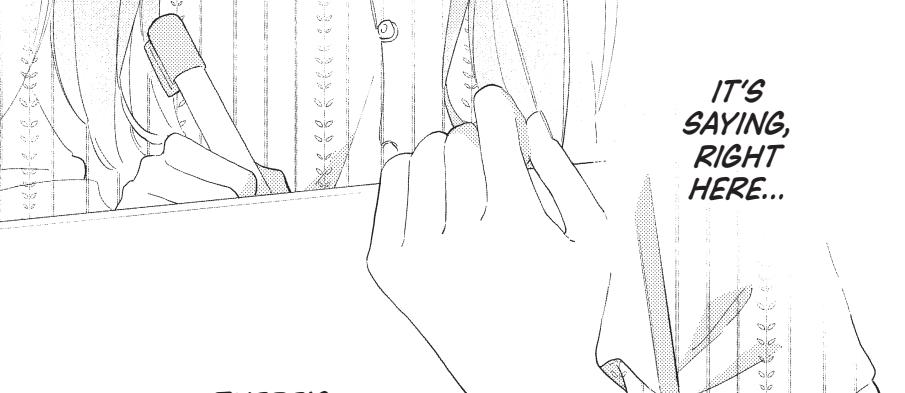
THADUMP



DON'T DO THAT
OUT OF THE
BLUE! YOU'LL
STARTLE HER!

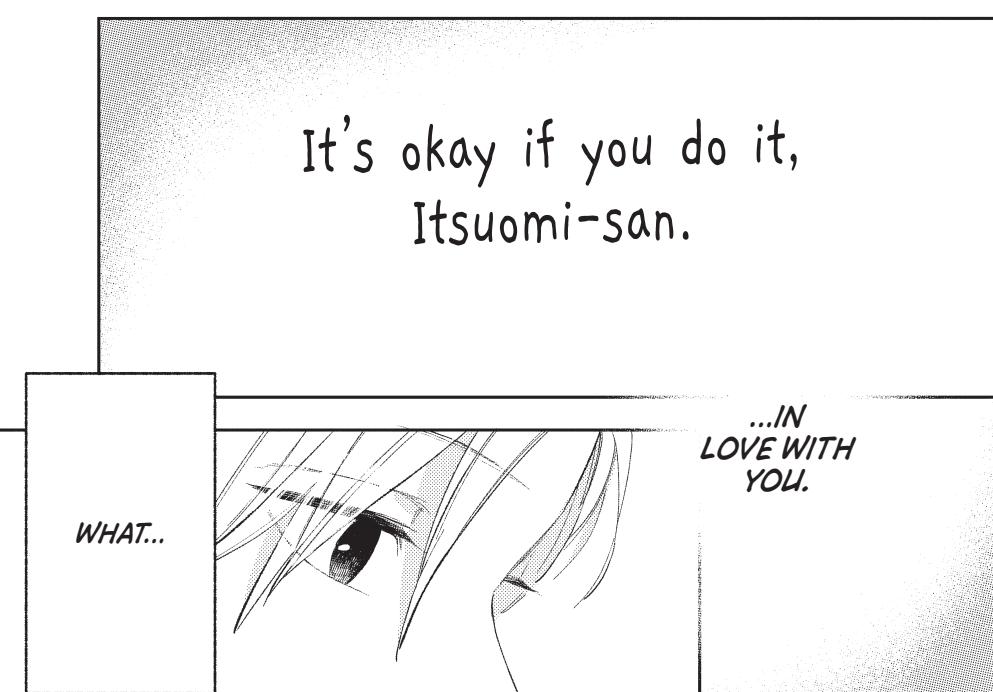
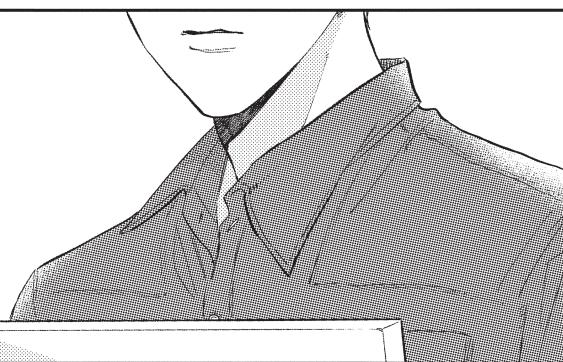
OH.

EVEN
MORE SO
BECAUSE
IT'S YOU.



IT'S
SAYING,
RIGHT
HERE...

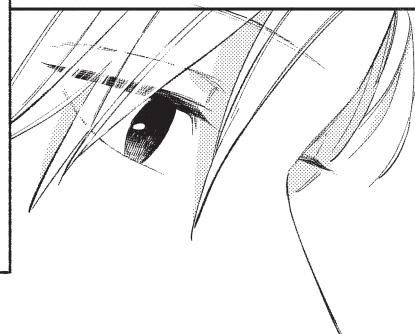
...THERE'S
SOMEONE...



It's okay if you do it,
Istuomi-san.

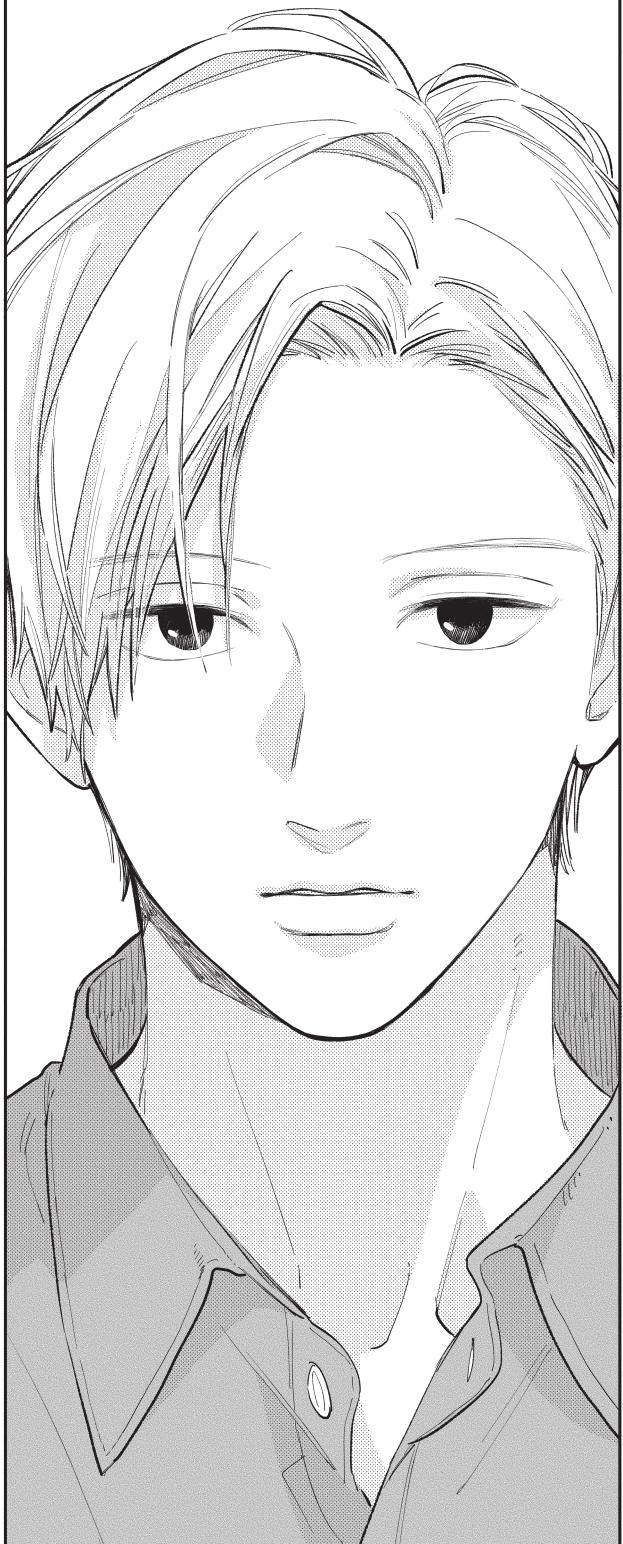
...IN
LOVE WITH
YOU.

WHAT...





...IF I FALL
FOR YOU?



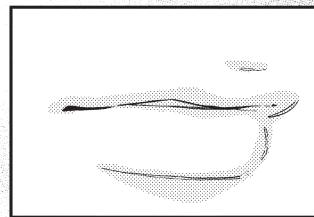
Sign.4
MORE



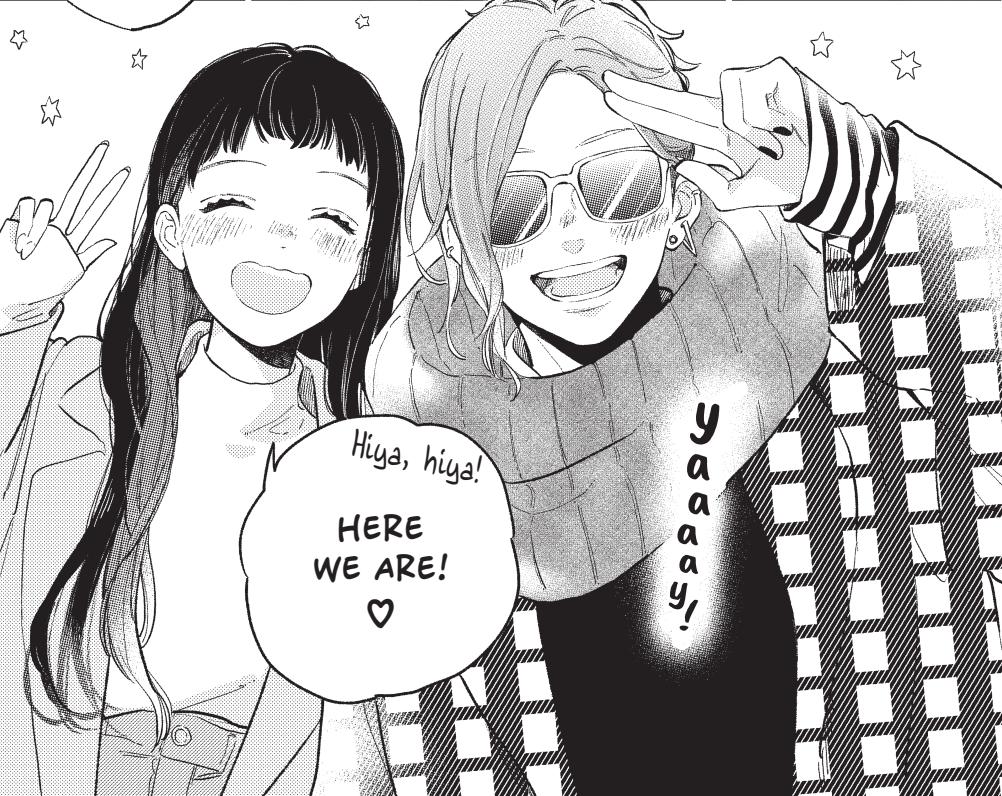
ON SECOND THOUGHT...

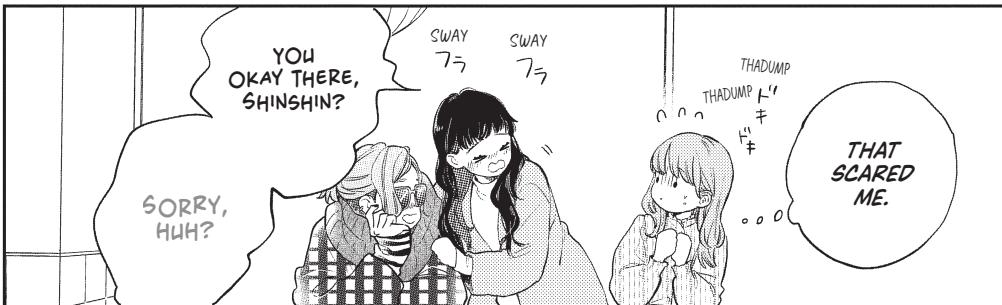
It's okay if you do it,
Itsuomi-san.

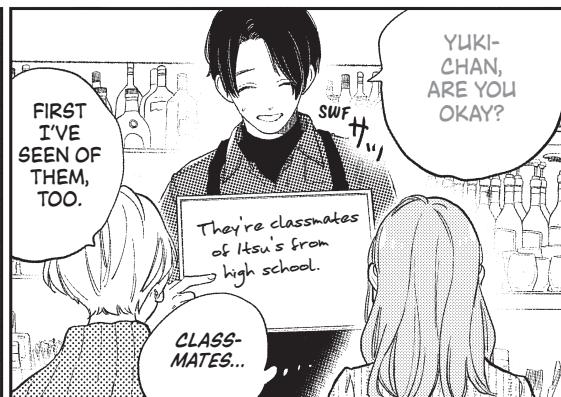
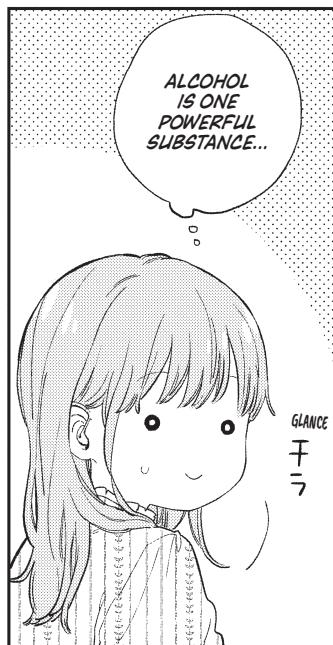
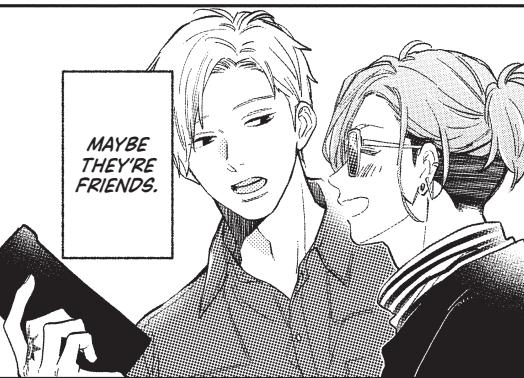


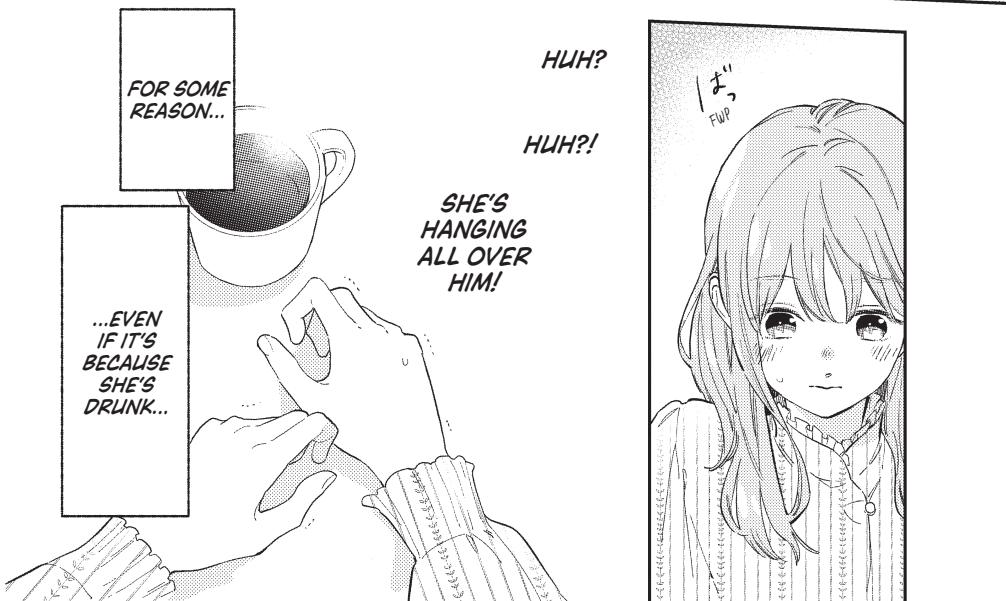
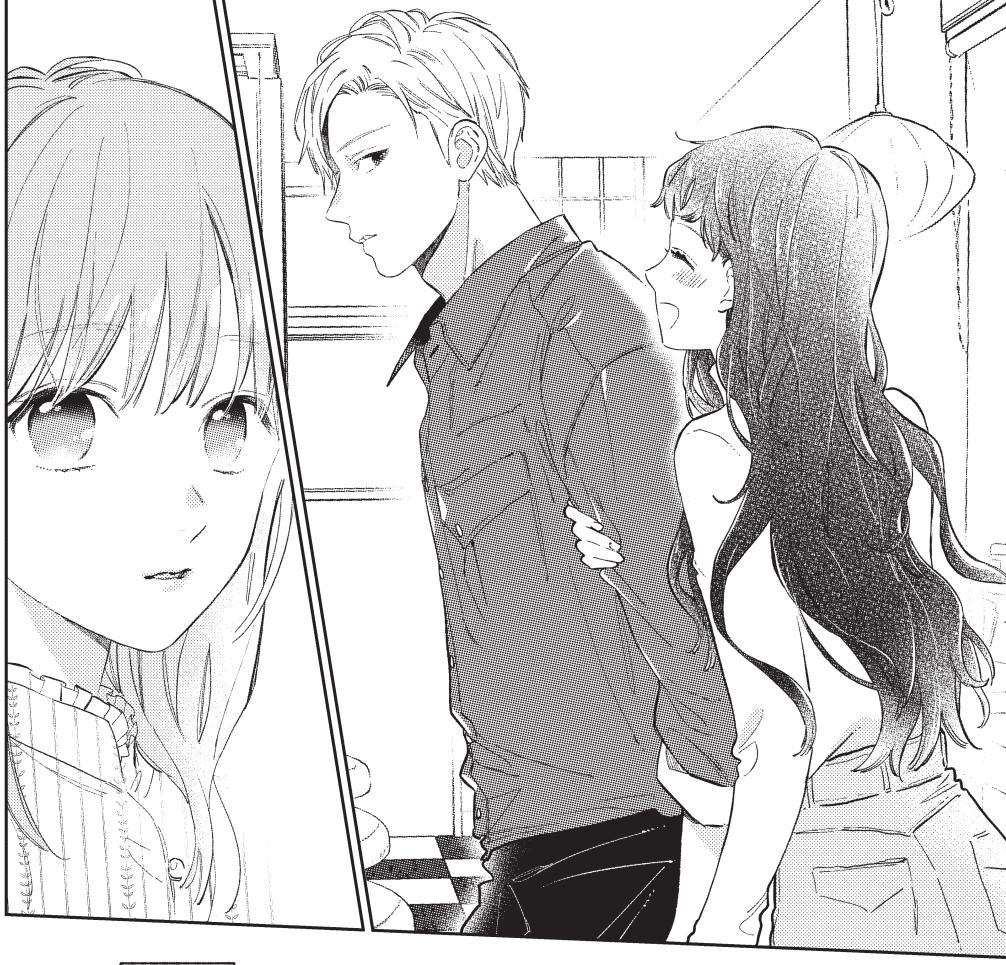


WHAT DOES
HE "GET,"
EXACTLY?!



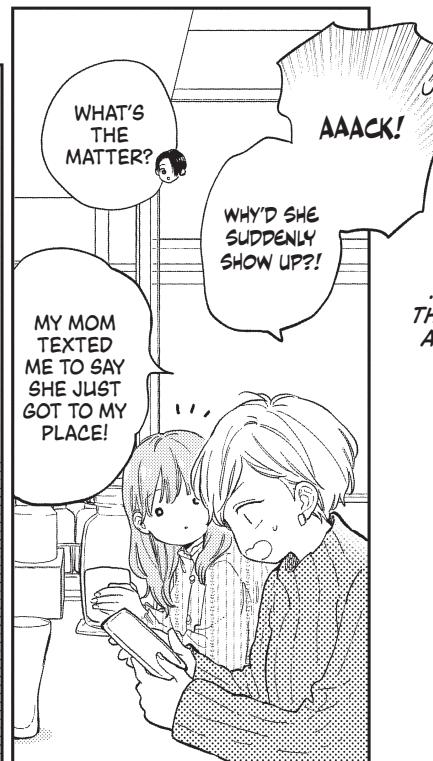
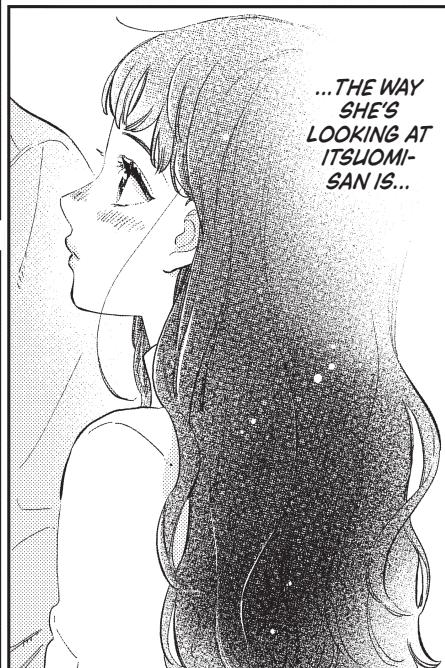
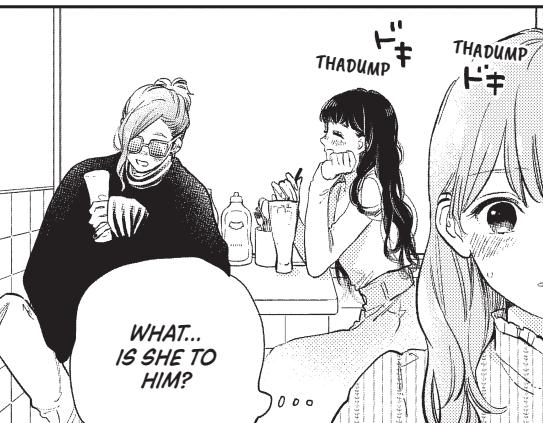


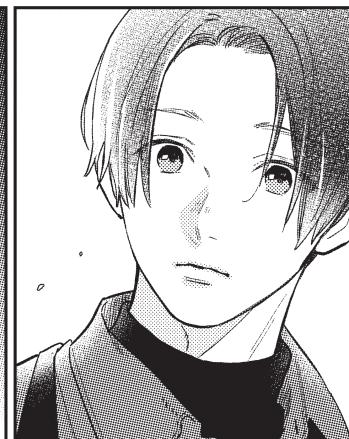
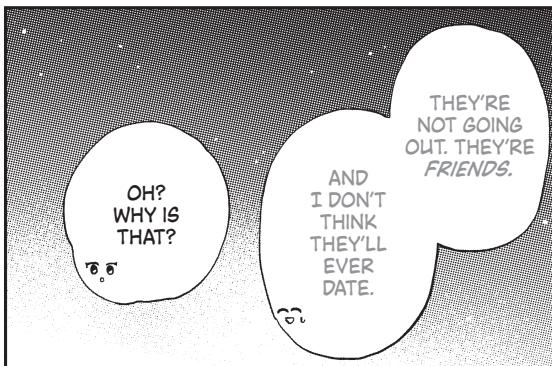


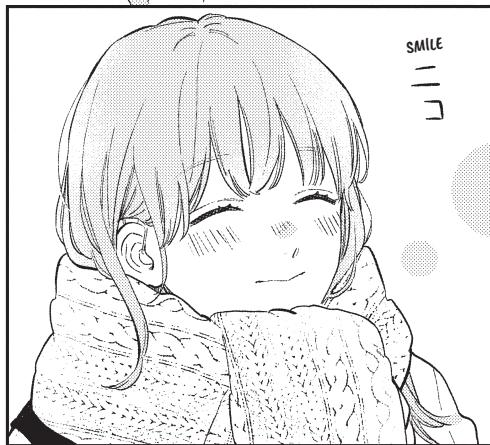




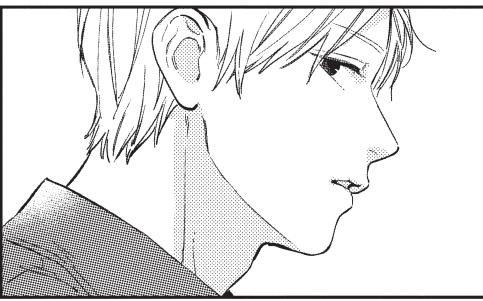
...THE WAY
SHE'S
LOOKING AT
ITSUOMI-
SAN IS...







"TAKE
CARE ON
YOUR WAY
BACK."



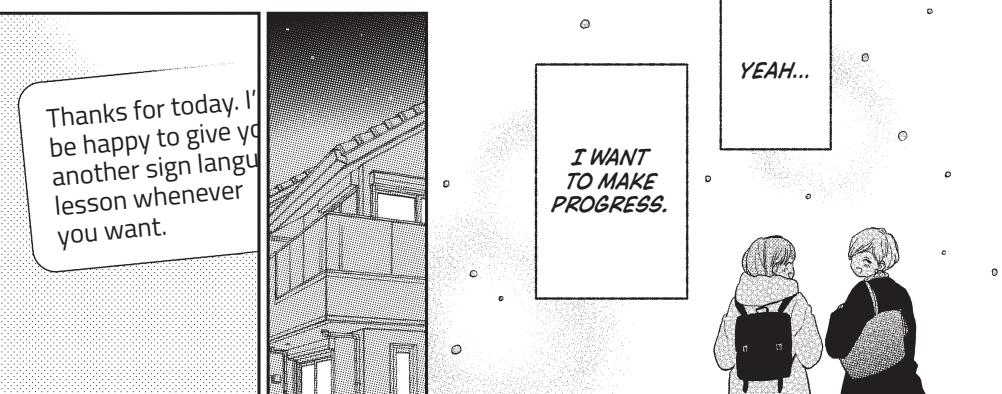
...ABOUT HIS
RELATIONSHIP
WITH THAT
GIRL.

I'M GLAD WE
GOT TO CHAT
SO MUCH
TODAY. ♥

I GUESS I'LL
JUST HAVE TO
TRUST THE
OWNER...

OOOH, IT'S
STARTING
TO SNOW A
LITTLE.





THE
NIGHT
WE LAST
MET...

IT'S
ALREADY
BEEN FOUR
DAYS SINCE I
SENT THAT
MESSAGE.

Itsuomi

Sure

Itsuomi

Night

...HE
WROTE
BACK.



SINCE
THEN...

...I HAVEN'T
HEARD A WORD
FROM HIM.

Good night.

VRR
! THAT
WAS A
QUICK
REPLY!

Here
I go!

I'LL TRY
ASKING.

THADUMP
I#
THADUMP
I#
THADUMP
I#
...

Hello. Are you
in Japan?

MAYBE
I SHOULD
SEND A
FOLLOW-UP
TEXT.

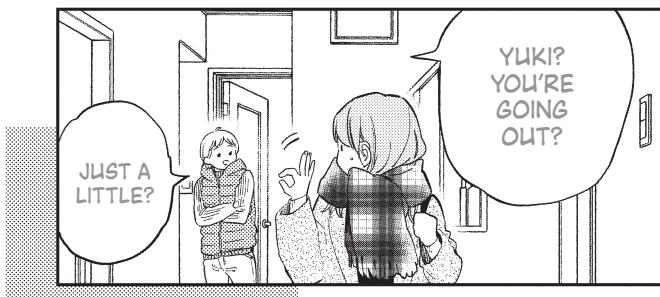
BUT IS
HE EVEN
IN JAPAN
RIGHT
NOW?





I'm at the laundromat near school

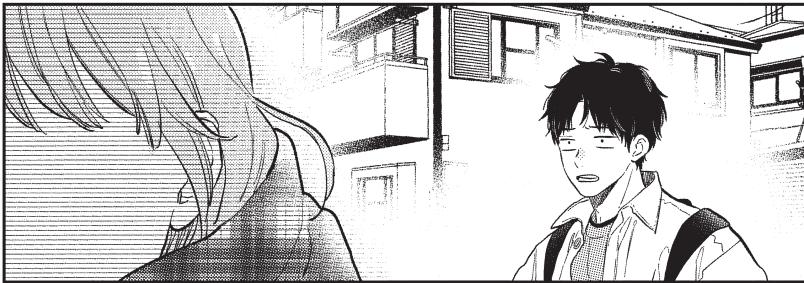
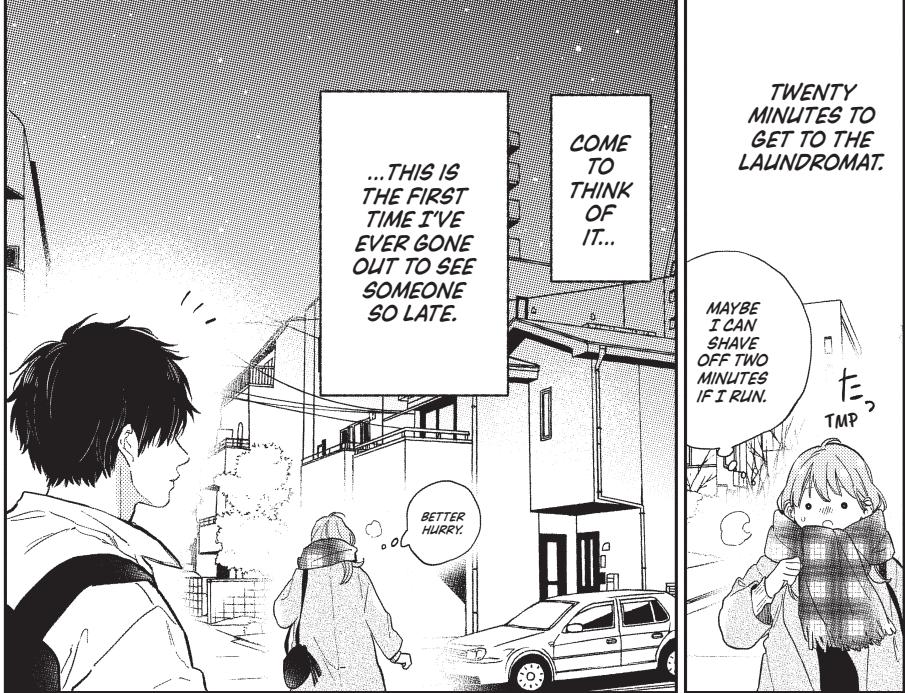
You wanna stop by?
Or not?

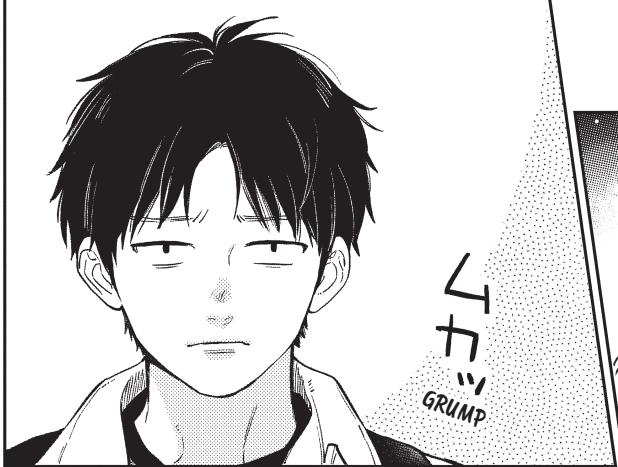


I CAN SEE HIM!

On my way!









THEN HE'S
JUST PROUD
OF HOW NICE
HE IS!

HEY!
YUKI!

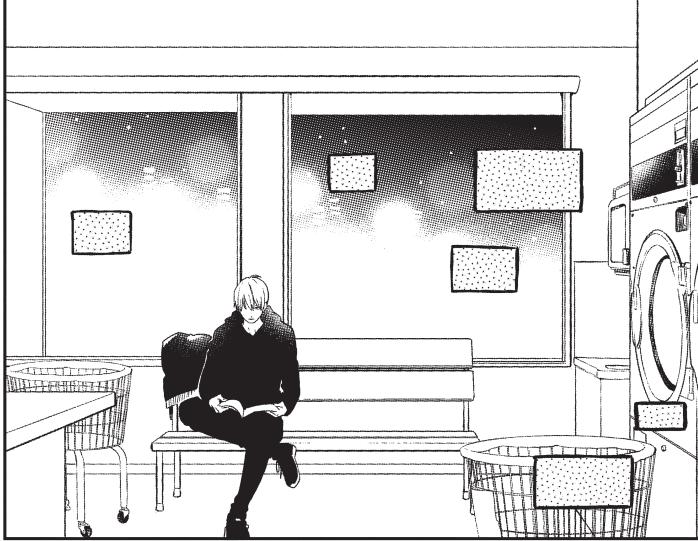
...THERE'S
NO TURNING
BACK.

Huff! P
Huff! P

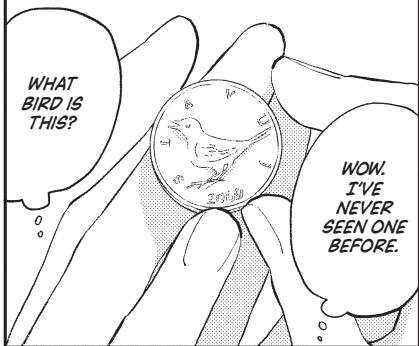
NOW
THAT I'VE
STARTED
RUNNING...

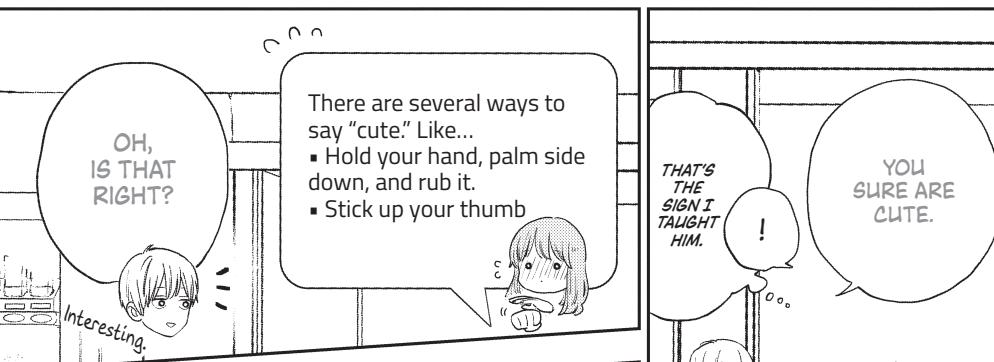
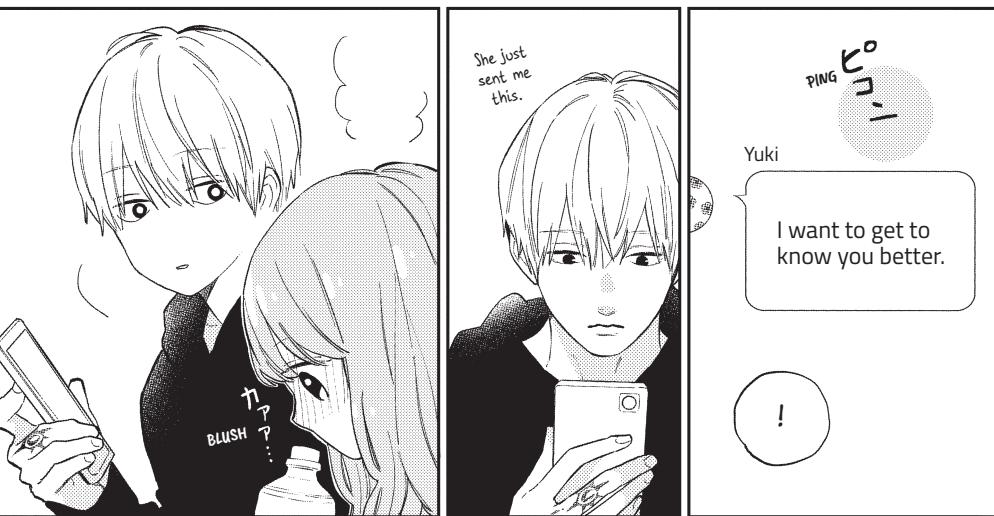
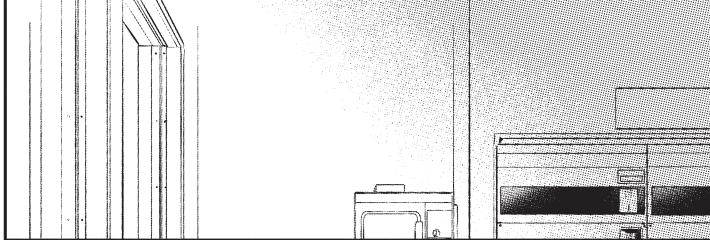
I'M
ALREADY...

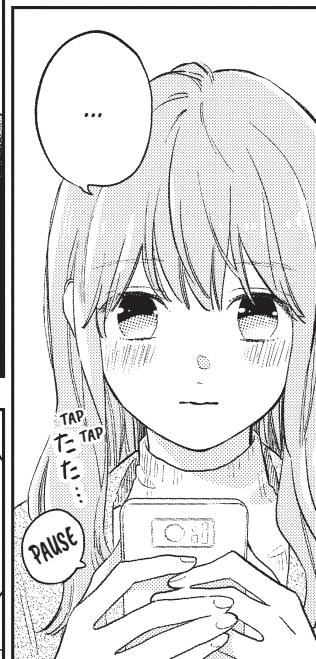
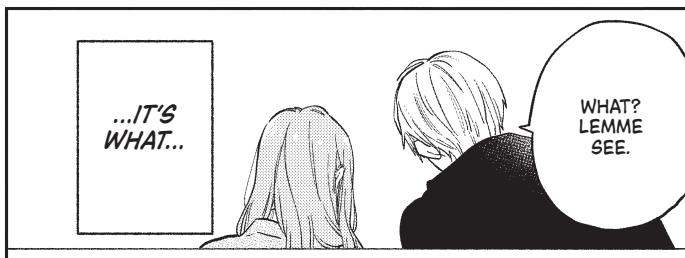
...PAST THE
STARTING
LINE.











OH.
MAYBE IT'S
THE SAME
WAY PEOPLE
PET A DOG
OR CAT.

THADUMP



WHY
WAS HE
ALWAYS
DOING
THAT?

THADUMP



THE
WORLD OF
SIGN LAN-
GUAGE...

...IS
PRETTY
FUN.



YOU
USED SIGN
LANGUAGE THE
FIRST TIME I
MET YOU.



IT FELT
LIKE...

...MY
ENTIRE
WORLD...

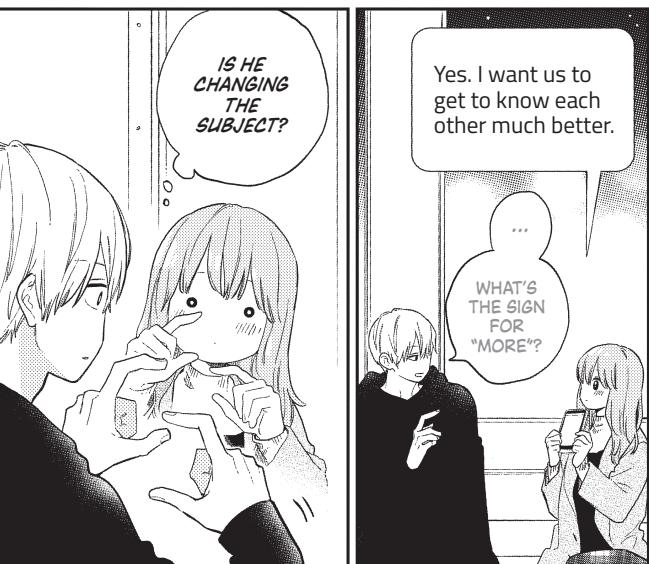
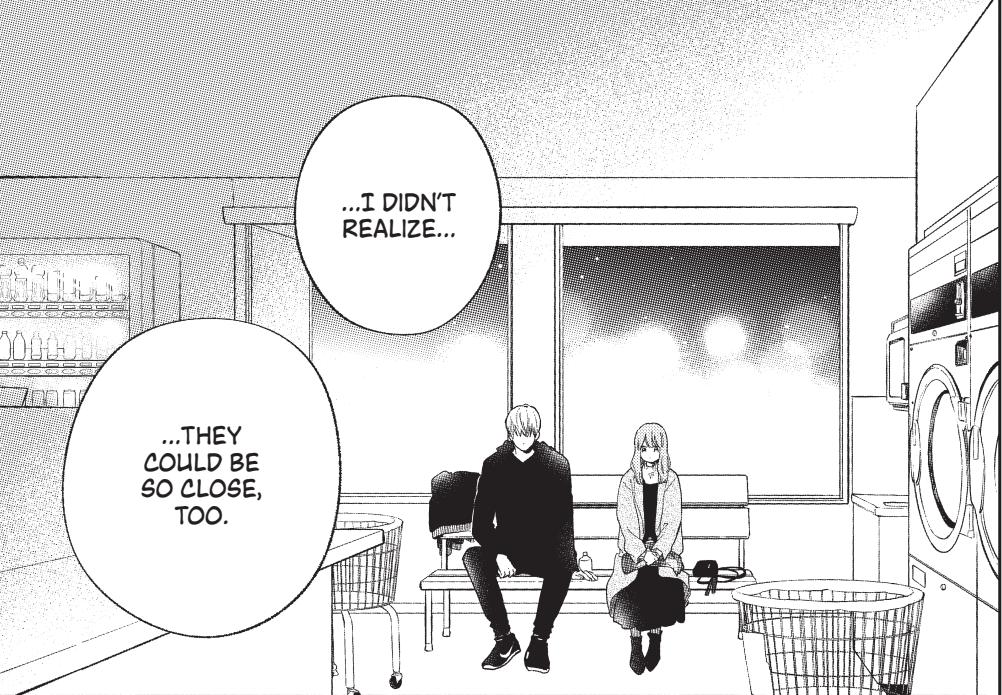
...WAS
SUDDENLY
TURNED ON
ITS HEAD.

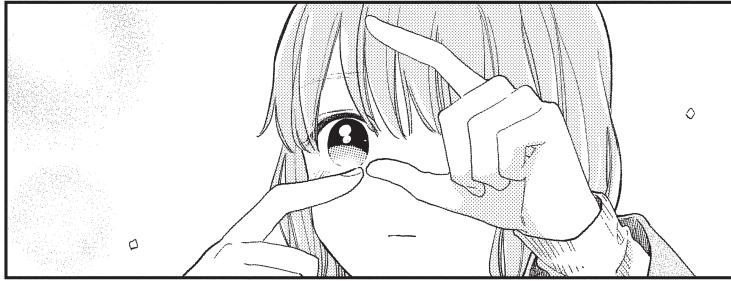
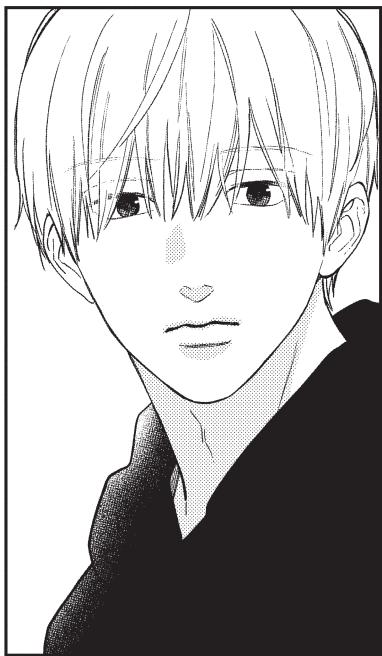
I USED
TO LIVE
OVERSEAS.

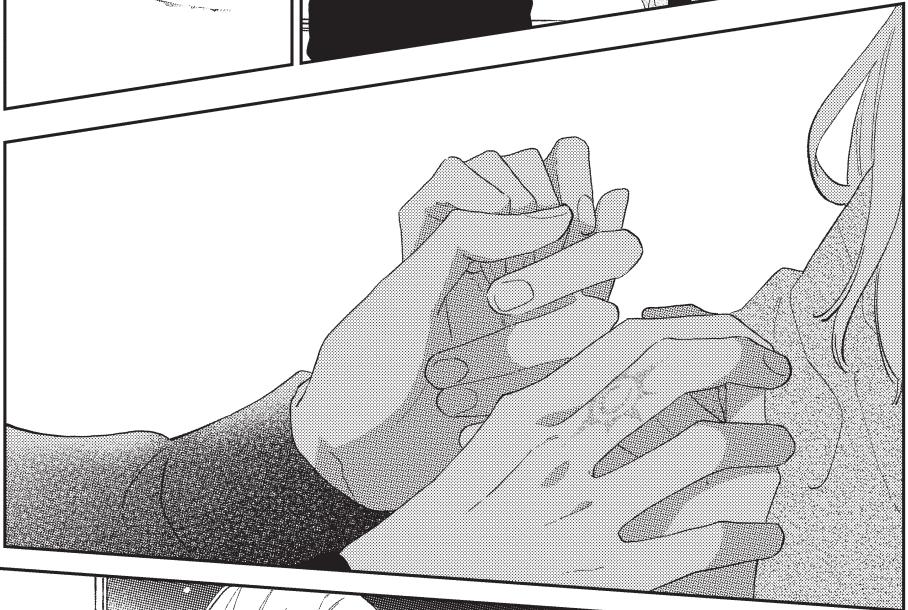
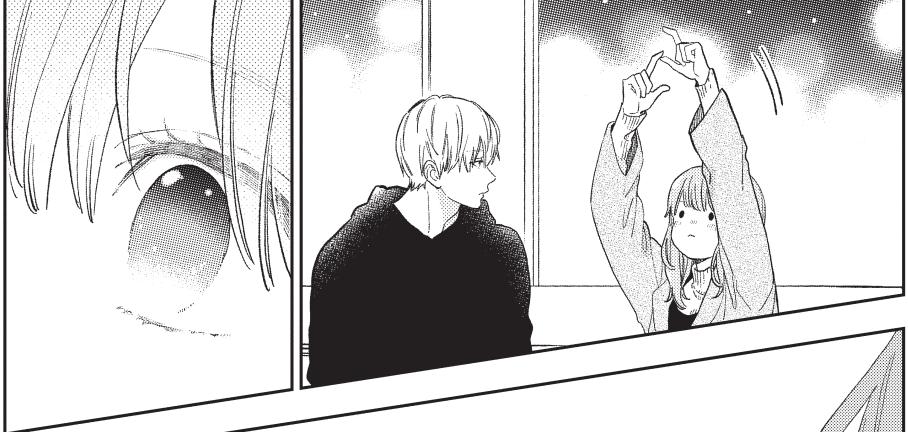
SO I
NATURALLY GOT
INTERESTED
IN LANGUAGES
AND
CULTURES.

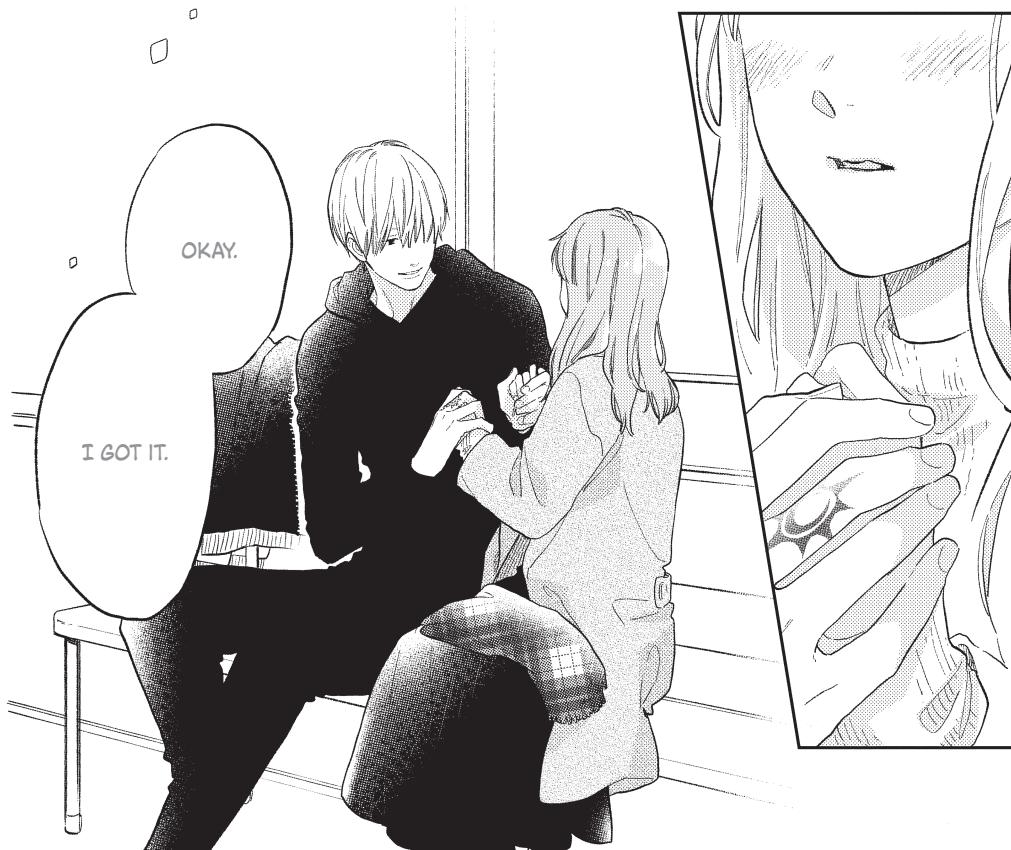
BUT I
WAS ALWAYS
SO BUSY
STARING OFF
INTO THE
DISTANCE...

I GUESS
THEY
BECAME
MY DRIVING
FORCE.









EVEN
THOUGH IT'S
ONLY MY
HANDS HE'S
HOLDING ...

...I FEEL
LIKE ITSUMI-
SAN'S PALMS
ARE WRAPPED
AROUND ME.

!=
"squeeze"

WHEN
HE'S SO
RELAXED
WITH ME...

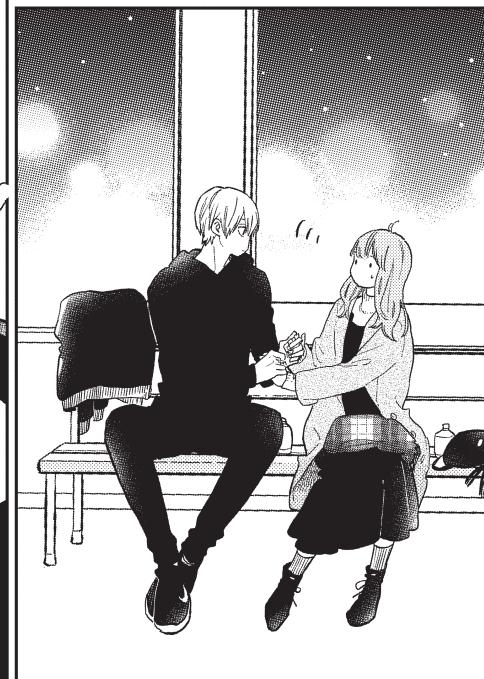
...MY
HEART
BEATS
OUT OF
CONTROL.





NOTE: This is German for "You are sweet."





I WANT
TO...



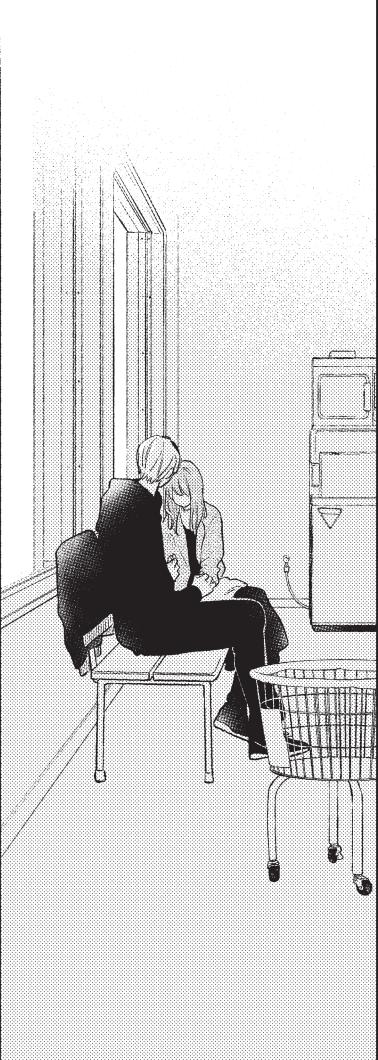
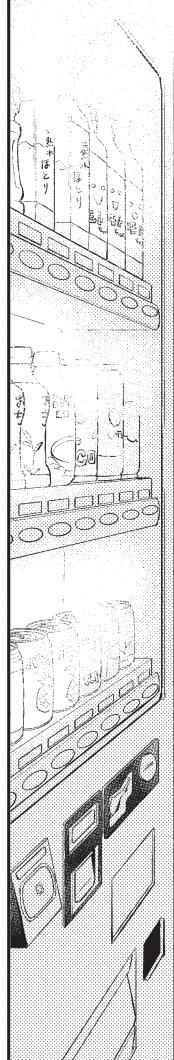
...WITH A
STRENGTH
THAT WILL
NEVER LET
GO.

...HOLDING
ONTO ME...

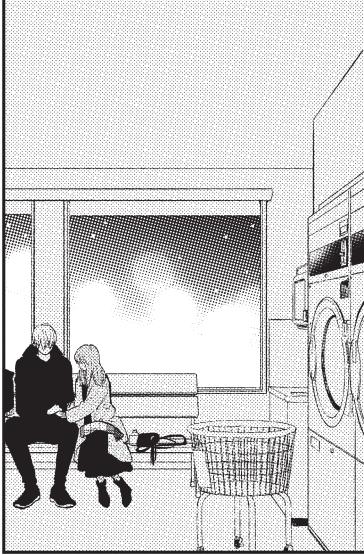


...HOLD
ONTO
HIM...

...JUST AS
STRONGLY.

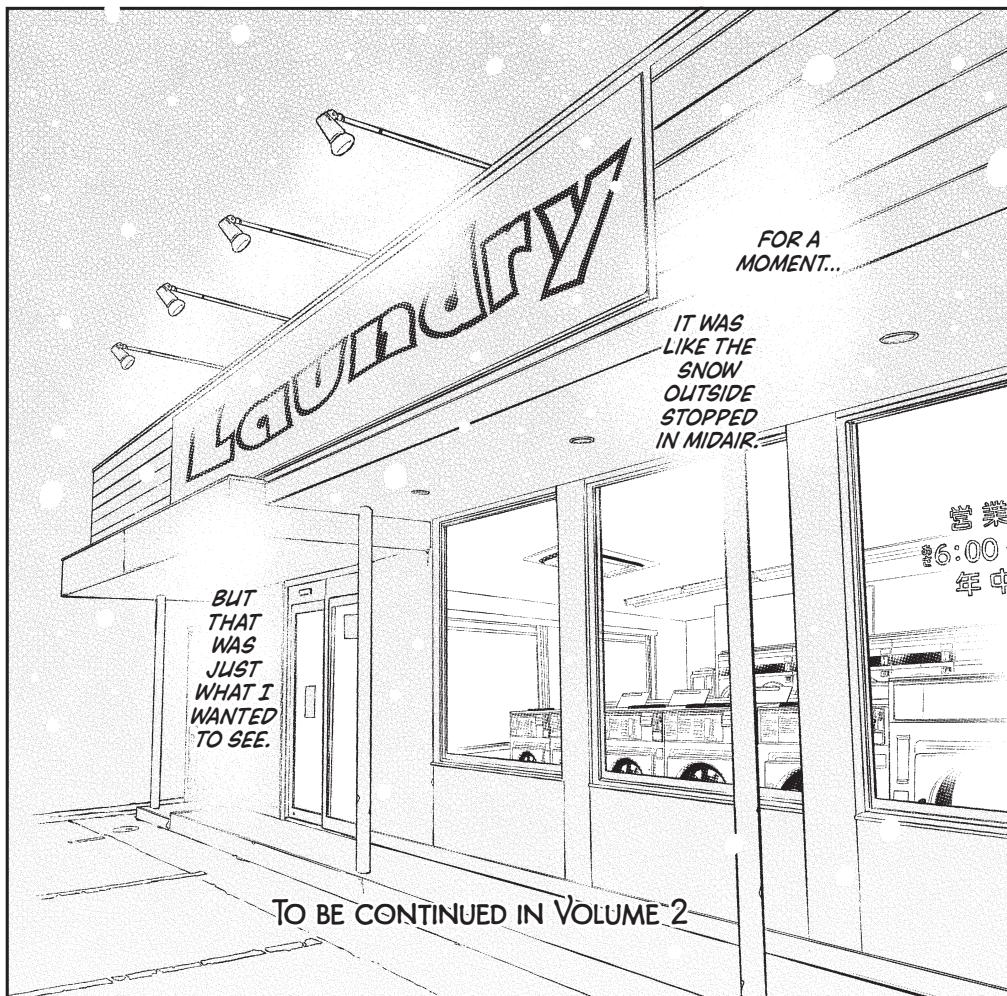


JUST A
LITTLE OVER
AN HOUR
LEFT UNTIL
CURFEW.



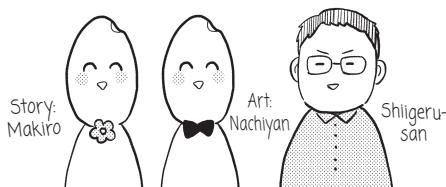
EVEN
IF IT'S
ENOUGH
TO HURT...

...NONE
OF THIS
FEELS
LIKE IT'S
REAL.



AFTERWORD

Thank you
for reading
volume 1 of
*A Sign of
Affection!!*



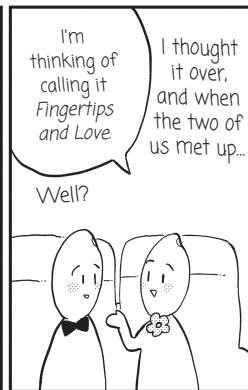
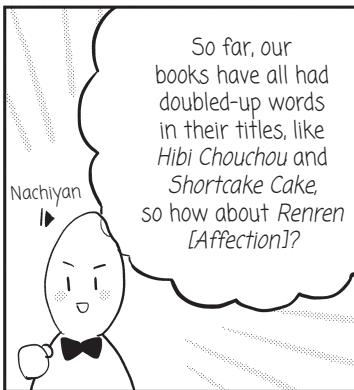
The Story Behind the Title

I want a
simple and
straightforward
title that's easy
to understand.

...

◀ Makiro

The Japanese title is
Yubisaki to Renren,
"Fingertips and
Affection." I knew
that I wanted to use
the word "fingertip"
in it somewhere.



Special Thanks

- Editors: Shiigeru-san, Idenaga-san
- Balcolony's Takeuchi-san, Ichiki-san
- The editorial staff of *Dessert*
- Everyone at Spica Works
- The International Rights Department

Sign language collaborator:
Yuki Miyazaki-chan

Backgrounds materials collaborator:
Rockin' Robin, Osu branch

Assistant: Nao Hamaguchi-chan

Background help: Saya Aoi-san

Everyone involved with the publishing

& all my readers!

Interview with suu Morishita

This original interview between A Sign of Affection creator suu Morishita and Kodansha Comics originally appeared on our website at kodanshacomics.com. Check it out for more peeks behind the scenes and insider videos!

Kodansha Comics: I've heard that you are a two-person team making manga together. Could you tell us how you two met? How do you work together when you make a manga?

suu Morishita: We went to the same high school and were classmates. Makiro creates our storyboards/layouts, and Nachiyan illustrates the story. Along with our editor, the three of us discuss the series and check rough sketches together.

KC: Why do you draw yourselves as grains of rice in your self-portraits?

sM: The rice grain is a character called "Soboku-kun" that Nachiyan created when we were in high school. There's no specific reason why it's a rice grain, though (laughs).

We both liked that character, so when we debuted as manga artists and thought about our self-portrait, we decided to go with that. We also use it on our Twitter. *[Editor's note: Their handle is @morisita_suu, but, of course, their tweets are in Japanese.]*

KC: What inspired you to draw a manga focused on sign language and centered around a person with a hearing disability?

sM: When we were thinking about our next manga, Nachiyan suggested a story that involved sign language, and, coincidentally, that was a subject I wanted to personally try and figure out as a manga artist.

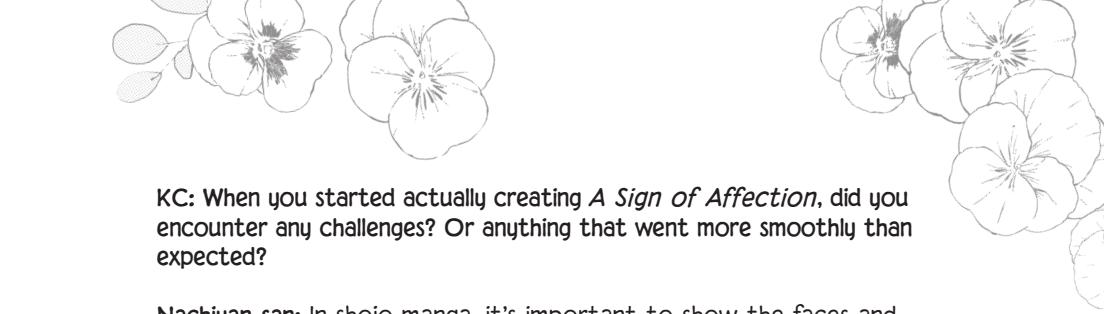
Sign language is difficult to express visually, and it's rare to see a Deaf protagonist in shojo manga. That's why we wanted to take up this challenge. Also, we felt that there were a lot of important elements that crossed over between both sign language and the shojo manga

genre—both are full of expressions and emotions that aren't entirely stated, and exist beyond the spoken dialog. There's a feeling that in order to fully understand the emotions of the characters in shojo manga you need to pay attention to the entirety of the story, the expressions, the scenery, the reactions, and, yes, the dialog. Sign language is the same, in that you also have to pay attention to the signing, expressions, and more to fully understand what's being communicated.



KC: Did you have firsthand experience using sign language before working on this manga? Or did you do a lot of research about the subject?

sM: I learned a little bit of sign language when I was in elementary school, but it was just singing a children's song in sign language. So we made sure to do some interviews before starting the series. We also read books, interviewed teachers at a school for the Deaf, and then, most importantly, we met Yuki Miyazaki, who supervised our use of sign language for this work. She also shares with us her world as a Deaf person and tells us about her daily life.



KC: When you started actually creating *A Sign of Affection*, did you encounter any challenges? Or anything that went more smoothly than expected?

Nachiyan-san: In shojo manga, it's important to show the faces and expressions of the characters in the story. But in this story, it's hard to keep panel composition from feeling stale, or, rather, all looking the same. Because if you try to draw only the facial expressions, you won't get to include the characters' hands doing sign language in the panel, or if you try to focus on the sign language, you won't get the facial expressions.

Makiro-san: I try to create Yuki's inner monologue and words carefully, since there are no speech balloons for her. I know it's a sensitive subject, so I'm careful of how I depict and represent this topic because I don't want people to get hurt by the way it's presented. Beyond Yuki, I also take care of the scenes, story arcs, and dialog. But the smoothest part is that Yuki is easy to portray as a character in terms of personality, moreso than the heroine characters we've had in our past works.

KC: What makes Yuki a unique person? What makes Itsuomi a unique person?

sM: In terms of personality, Yuki is more earnest and pure than our previous heroines. Also, I think her personality is more relatable and typical of a college girl. Itsuomi is someone who goes at his own pace and is not afraid of anything. But he's also very patient and empathetic.

KC: The color illustrations for *A Sign of Affection* are very beautiful! Could you tell us a little bit about the tools that you use? I particularly love the use of warm color for the outline instead of solid black. Was this a stylistic choice for this series?

Nachiyan-san: I use Copic Multiliner brown for the outlines, and Dr. Ph. Martin's color ink for coloring. In this manga, I'm trying to keep a soft and delicate art style.



KC: Do you guys have a personal hobby? Do you think those hobbies help you to work on manga? Or not?

Nachiyan-san: My hobby is collecting the German toy PLAYMOBIL. It helps me to relax on a daily basis. Also, since I can't go out much these days, I've been playing *Animal Crossing*.

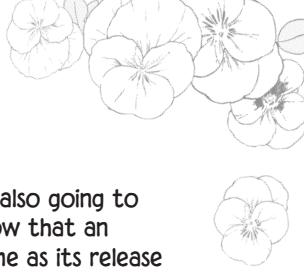
Makiro-san: I've also been playing *Animal Crossing* lately. Other than that, we like beauty blogs, beauty materials, and what's popular in beauty. Sometimes, we even use these beauty topics in our manga.

KC: What are some of the audience reactions on *A Sign of Affection* that you've seen so far?

sM: We often receive comments such as "it's きゅんきゅん (*kyun kyun*)**" and "it's 尊い (*toutou*)**". We're happy to hear when people say that Yuki is a cute main character. Also, we feel we're getting more and more comments that fans read and reread this manga over and over again.

きゅんきゅん (*kyun kyun*): a kind of sparkling beauty
尊い (*toutou*): too pure and should be treasured





KC: *A Sign of Affection* is now available in English, and it's also going to be available as a simulpub. How does it make you feel to know that an overseas audience will be reading this manga at the same time as its release in Japan?

sM: It's so nice to be read by someone overseas in real time! There are many kinds of sign language in many countries, but I hope you can see that this is what Japanese sign language is like.

KC: Any last words to the fans of *A Sign of Affection*? What should the fans be looking forward to in this series in the near future?

sM: We're grateful that people are interested in our manga. We're getting more messages on Instagram from people abroad. We believe Itsuomi will learn sign language and use it more often in the future. Although sign language is a visual way to communicate, we hope that the emotions and sentiments that show up between the gaps in the fingers can be conveyed to the readers, as well, and that they take notice of what is left unsaid. We hope you will continue to read and enjoy this manga.



A SIGN OF
AFFECTION

TRANSLATION NOTES

Yuki's Snowy World, page 3

Yuki's name is the Japanese word for snow. In Japanese, the title of this chapter is *yuki no sekai*, which means both "Yuki's world" and "world of snow." We decided to clue the reader into this double meaning by having her friend Rin-chan mention it on page 37.

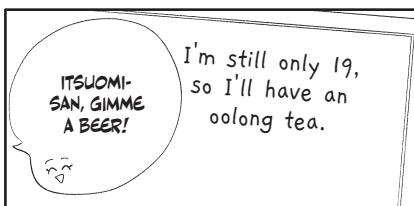


Train announcement, page 7

Like most train announcements in Japan, this one is bilingual, informing passengers of the next station first in Japanese, then in English.

College clubs, page 11

College activity clubs are called *saakuru* or "circles" in Japanese. They are important parts of a college student's social life, sometimes helping to nurture lifelong friendships.



Still only 19, page 30

In Japan, the drinking age is 20.

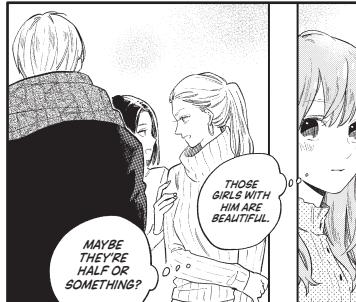


LINE ID, page 36

LINE is a social network popular in Japan.

Half or something, page 66

Yuki is wondering if the girls Itsuomi is talking with have one Japanese parent and one non-Japanese parent. The term for this in conversational Japanese is *haafu*, or “half.”



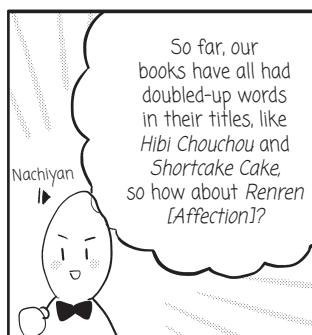
20:12, page 151



In Japan, the 12-hour and 24-hour clock are both in common use. So one might say, “It's 8:12 pm” in conversation when their phone display reads “20:12.”

Doubled-up words, page 173

The Japanese title of *A Sign of Affection* is ゆびさきと恋々 (*Yubisaki to renren*), or *Fingertips and Affection*. The character 々 usually has no set pronunciation associated with it in Japanese, instead indicating that the sound of the previous character should be repeated—in this case, *ren*, for love. suu Morishita’s manga 曰々蝶々 (*Hibi chouchou*) uses this character twice, to double up the characters for “day” and “butterfly,” while, of course, *Shortcake Cake* doubles up the English word “cake.”



YUKI MET
ITSUOMI,
AND FELL
IN LOVE
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME.

COMING UP
IN VOL. 2!

HEY,
TELL
ME...

...HOW DO
YOU SAY
"SURE" IN SIGN
LANGUAGE?

SHE CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S ACTUALLY

FEELING THESE FEELINGS...



...
EMOTION,
THAT MUST
BE...

... FELT
TO BE
BELIEVED.

AN
OVER-
WHELMING
...



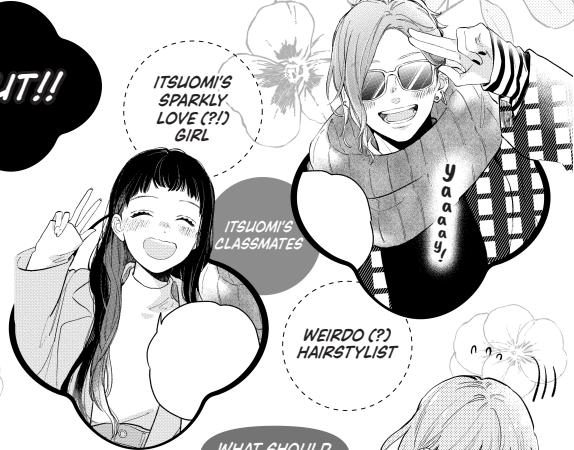
YUKI'S EXCITEMENT...



... ONLY GROWS.



BUT!!



WILL HIS PECULIAR (?) OTHER FRIENDS...

... GET IN THE WAY OF THEIR LOVE?

A SIGN OF AFFECTION

COMING SOON!

2

VOL.
2...

WILL YOU
READ IT?
OR NOT?



THE SWEET SCENT OF LOVE IS IN THE AIR! FOR FANS OF OFFBEAT ROMANCES LIKE WOTAKOI!



Sweat and Soap © Kintetsu Yamada / Kodansha Ltd.

In an office romance, there's a fine line between sexy and awkward... and that line is where Asako — a woman who sweats copiously — meets Koutarou — a perfume developer who can't get enough of Asako's, er, scent. Don't miss a romcom manga like no other!

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

PERFECT WORLD

Rie Aruga



A TOUCHING
NEW SERIES
ABOUT LOVE AND
COPING WITH
DISABILITY

An office party reunites Tsugumi with her high school crush Itsuki. He's realized his dream of becoming an architect, but along the way, he experienced a spinal injury that put him in a wheelchair. Now Tsugumi's rekindled feelings will butt up against prejudices she never considered — and Itsuki will have to decide if he's ready to let someone into his heart...

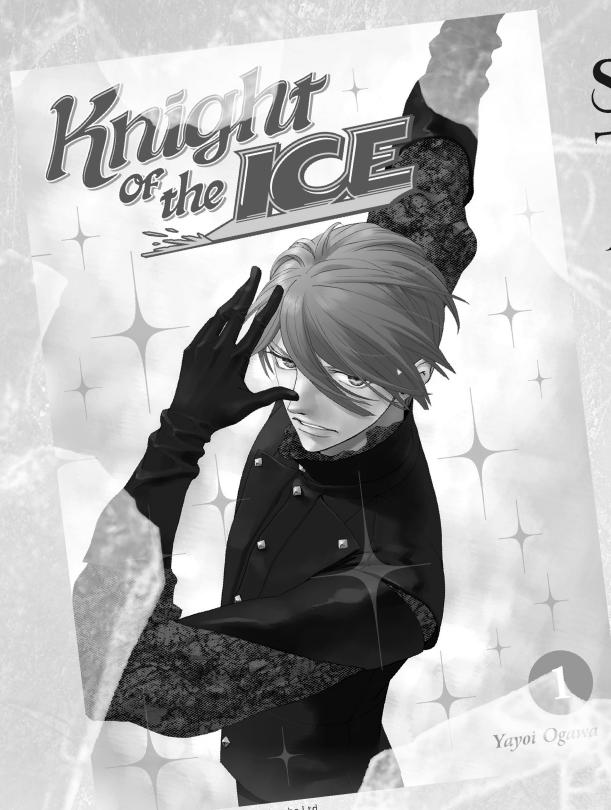
"Depicts with great delicacy and courage the difficulties some with disabilities experience getting involved in romantic relationships... Rie Aruga refuses to romanticize, pushing her heroine to face the reality of disability. She invites her readers to the same tasks of empathy, knowledge and recognition."

—Slate.fr

"An important entry [in manga romance]... The emotional core of both plot and characters indicates thoughtfulness... [Aruga's] research is readily apparent in the text and artwork, making this feel like a real story."

—Anime News Network

KC/
KODANSHA
COMICS



Knight of the Ice ©Yayoi Ogawa/Kodansha Ltd.

Yayoi Ogawa

SKATING
THRILLS
AND ICY
CHILLS
WITH
THIS NEW
TINGLY
ROMANCE
SERIES!

A rom-com on ice, perfect for fans of *Princess Jellyfish* and *Wotakoi*. Kokoro is the talk of the figure-skating world, winning trophies and hearts. But little do they know... he's actually a huge nerd! From the beloved creator of *You're My Pet* (*Tramps Like Us*).

Chitose is a serious young woman, working for the health magazine SASSO. Or at least, she would be, if she wasn't constantly getting distracted by her childhood friend, international figure skating star Kokoro Kijinami!

In the public eye and on the ice, Kokoro is a gallant, flawless knight, but behind his glittery costumes and breathtaking spins lies a secret: He's actually a hopelessly romantic otaku, who can only land his quad jumps when Chitose is on hand to recite a spell from his favorite magical girl anime!



KC/
KODANSHA
COMICS

SAINT★YOUNG MEN

A LONG AWAITED ARRIVAL IN PREMIUM 2-IN-1 HARDCOVER

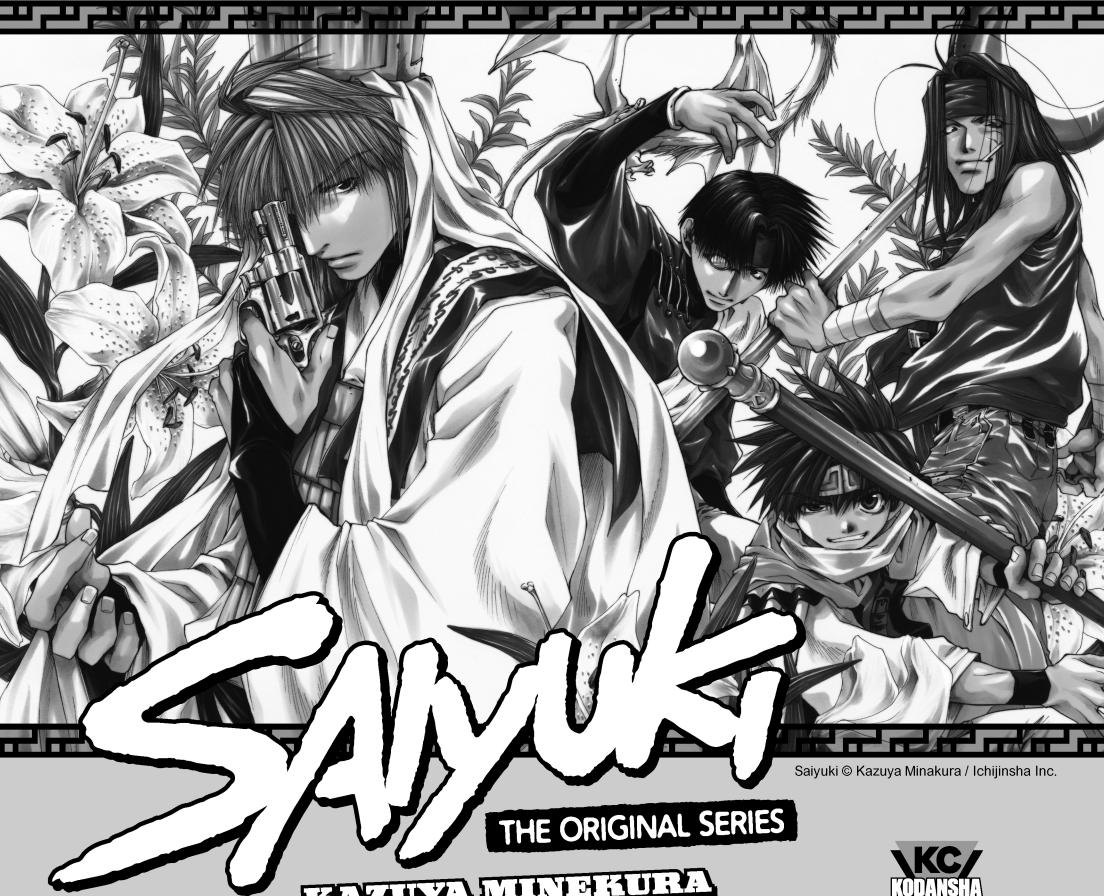
After centuries of hard work, Jesus and Buddha take a break from their heavenly duties to relax among the people of Japan, and their adventures in this lighthearted buddy comedy are sure to bring mirth and merriment to all!

“Brilliant...the physical comedy and facial expressions will make you literally LOL.”

—Sam Humphries
(host of *DC Daily*;
writer, *Green Lanterns*,
Legendary Star-Lord)



**The boys are back, in 400-page hardcovers
that are as pretty and badass as they are!**



"AN EDGY COMIC LOOK AT AN ANCIENT CHINESE TALE." —YALSA

Genjo Sanzo is a Buddhist priest in the city of Togenkyo, which is being ravaged by yokai spirits that have fallen out of balance with the natural order. His superiors send him on a journey far to the west to discover why this is happening and how to stop it. His companions are three yokai with human souls. But this is no day trip — the four will encounter many discoveries and horrors on the way.

**FEATURES NEW TRANSLATION, COLOR PAGES,
AND BEAUTIFUL WRAPAROUND COVER ART!**

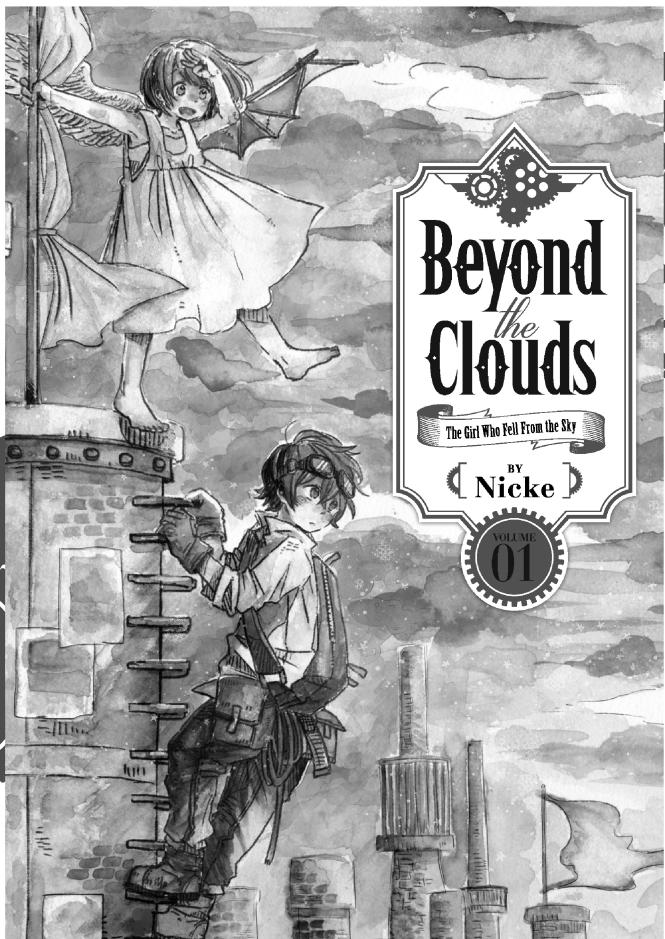
A SMART, NEW ROMANTIC COMEDY FOR FANS OF SHORTCAKE CAKE AND TERRACE HOUSE!

Living-Room Matsunaga-san © Keiko Iwashita / Kodansha Ltd.



A romance manga starring high school girl Meeko, who learns to live on her own in a boarding house whose living room is home to the odd (but handsome) Matsunaga-san. She begins to adjust to her new life away from her parents, but Meeko soon learns that no matter how far away from home she is, she's still a young girl at heart — especially when she finds herself falling for Matsunaga-san.

Young characters and steampunk setting,
like *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Battle Angel Alita*

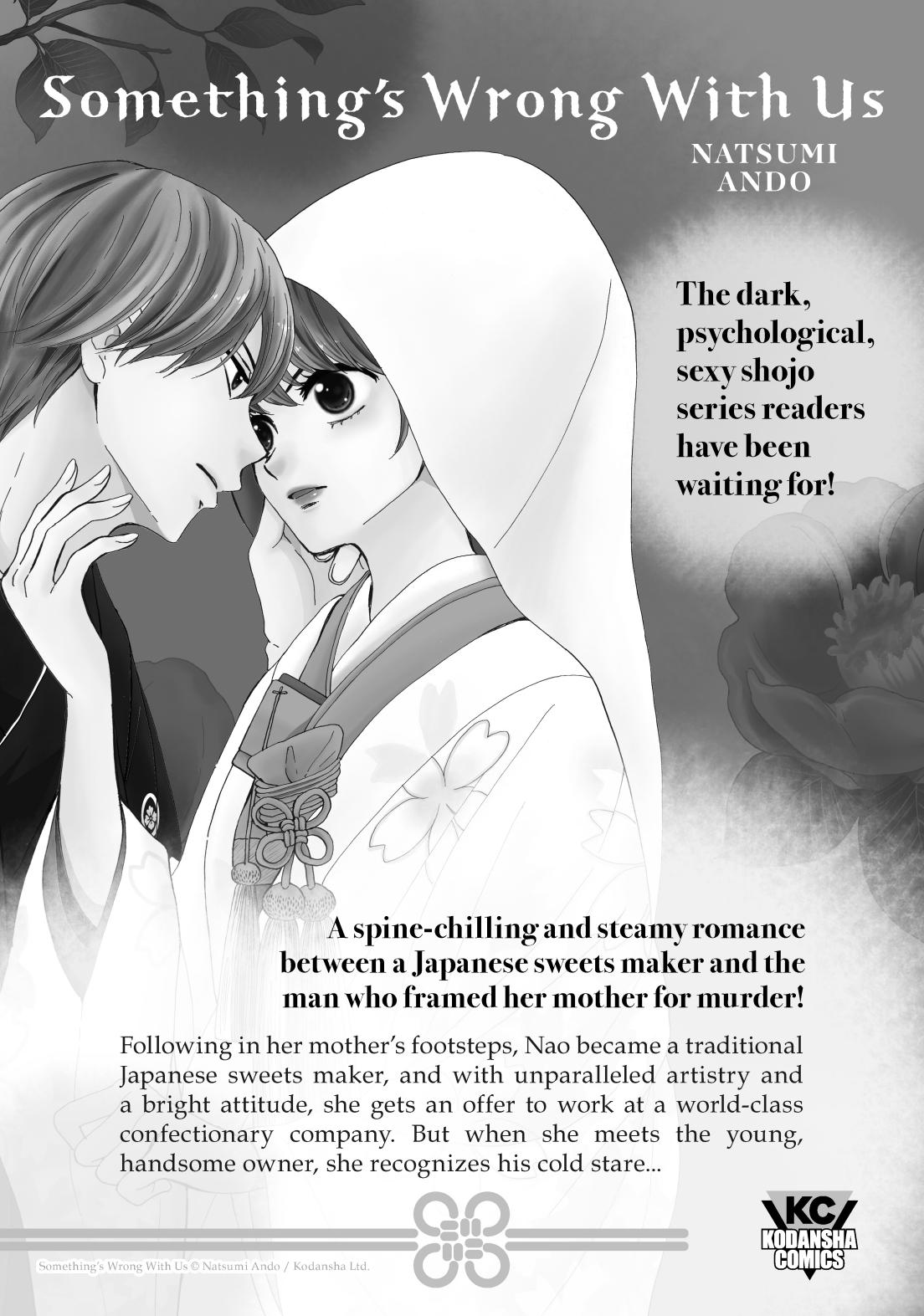


Beyond the Clouds © 2018 Nicke / Ki-oon

A boy with a talent for machines and a mysterious girl whose wings he's fixed will take you beyond the clouds! In the tradition of the high-flying, resonant adventure stories of Studio Ghibli comes a gorgeous tale about the longing of young hearts for adventure and friendship!

Something's Wrong With Us

NATSUMI
ANDO



The dark,
psychological,
sexy shojo
series readers
have been
waiting for!

A spine-chilling and steamy romance
between a Japanese sweets maker and the
man who framed her mother for murder!

Following in her mother's footsteps, Nao became a traditional Japanese sweets maker, and with unparalleled artistry and a bright attitude, she gets an offer to work at a world-class confectionary company. But when she meets the young, handsome owner, she recognizes his cold stare...



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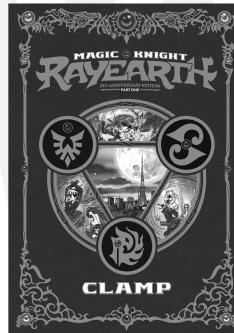
THE WORLD OF CLAMP!



Cardcaptor Sakura
Collector's Edition



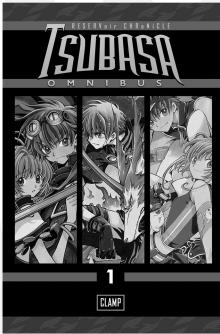
Cardcaptor Sakura:
Clear Card



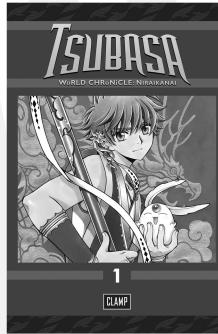
Magic Knight Rayearth
25th Anniversary Box Set



Chobits



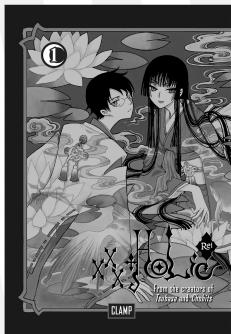
TSUBASA Omnibus



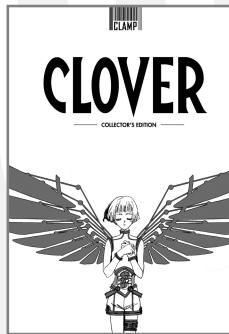
TSUBASA WORLD CHRONICLE



xxxHOLiC Omnibus



xxxHOLiC Rei



CLOVER Collector's Edition



Kodansha Comics welcomes you to explore the expansive world of CLAMP, the all-female artist collective that has produced some of the most acclaimed manga of the century. Our growing catalog includes icons like *Cardcaptor Sakura* and *Magic Knight Rayearth*, each crafted with CLAMP's one-of-a-kind style and characters!

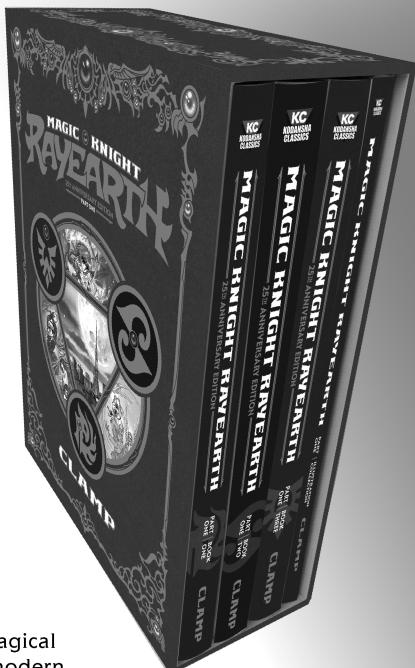


MAGIC KNIGHT RAYEARTH

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

CLAMP

A BELOVED CLASSIC MAKES ITS STUNNING RETURN IN
THIS GORGEOUS, LIMITED EDITION BOX SET!



This tale of three Tokyo teenagers who cross through a magical portal and become the champions of another world is a modern manga classic. The box set includes three volumes of manga covering the entire first series of *Magic Knight Rayearth*, plus the series's super-rare full-color art book companion, all printed at a larger size than ever before on premium paper, featuring a newly-revised translation and lettering, and exquisite foil-stamped covers. A strictly limited edition, this will be gone in a flash!

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One of CLAMP's biggest hits returns
in this definitive, premium, hardcover
20th anniversary collector's edition!



"A wonderfully
entertaining story
that would be a great
installment in anybody's
manga collection."

— Anime News Network

"CLAMP is an all-female
manga-creating
team whose feminine
touch shows in this
entertaining, sci-fi soap
opera."

— Publishers Weekly

Chobits © CLAMP/ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Poor college student Hideki is down on his luck. All he wants is a good job, a girlfriend, and his very own "persocom"—the latest and greatest in humanoid computer technology. Hideki's luck changes one night when he finds Chi—a persocom thrown out in a pile of trash. But Hideki soon discovers that there's much more to his cute new persocom than meets the eye.

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The art-deco cyberpunk classic from the creators
of *xxxHOLiC* and *Cardcaptor Sakura*!

“Starred Review.
This experimental
sci-fi work from
CLAMP reads like a
romantic version of
AKIRA.“

—Publishers Weekly



CLOVER

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



CLOVER © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Su was born into a bleak future, where the government keeps tight control over children with magical powers—codenamed “Clovers.” With Su being the only “four-leaf” Clover in the world, she has been kept isolated nearly her whole life. Can ex-military agent Kazuhiko deliver her to the happiness she seeks? Experience the complete series in this hardcover edition, which also includes over twenty pages of ravishing color art!



A Sign of Affection 1

Kodansha Digital Edition

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